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ANALYSES OF EXPLOSIVES

PHYSICAL-CHEMICAL DATA, CHROMATOGRAMS, MASS-, IR- AND NMR-SPECTRA. COLOUR REACTIONS AND THIN LAYER CHROMATOGRAPHY

Anita Alm, Olof Dalman, Inger Frölén-Lindgren,
Felix Hultén, Tom Karlsson and Monica Kowalska

81 pp

Summary

The present report comprises analytical data of frequently used explosives and tri-, di- and mononitrotoluenes. The data given are obtained by instrumental methods such as MS (70 eV, 20 eV, CI), IR and NMR (^1H , ^{13}C), in the form of spectra, and HPLC and GC, as chromatograms. Some data of noninstrumental methods such as colour reactions, thin layer chromatographic applications and pertinent physical-chemical data of these substances are also given.

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INTRODUCTION

Literature searches^{1,2} on identification and analyses of explosives have shown that there is no comprehensive report on analytical methods for this group of substances.(A recently published review is Yinon, J: Analysis of explosives. CRC Crit Rev Anal Chem 7 (1977) 1-35.)

Due to this fact the present work was carried out. The report comprises spectra and chromatograms of 25 substances of which eleven are frequently used explosives and the remaining fourteen are nitrotoluene isomers.

Instrumental methods have been applied. The spectral analyses include mass spectrometry (electron impact, chemical ionization), infrared spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance, (¹H, ¹³C). The chromatographic analyses include gas chromatography and high pressure liquid chromatography. Data on instrumentation and experimental conditions are given in each chapter.

As a complement, some pertinent physical-chemical data are presented in tabulated form. Data on qualitative analyses are given, based on noninstrumental methods such as colour reactions and thin layer chromatography.

The collection of data presented will hopefully be of assistance in the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the components in explosive compositions.

PHYSICAL DATA

Physical data given in tables 1-3 have been collected from different sources: compilations such as Landolt-Börnstein, Beilstein, Handbook of chemistry and physics, Fedoroff⁴, books such as Meyer⁵, Bofors⁶ and a few published papers.

Table 1. List of explosives. Formulas and physical data.

No	Explosive	Abbrev	Synonym	Formula	Mol.- weight	Melt.- point	Deflagr. temp. C	Remark
1	Ethylene glycol dinitrate	EGDN	(Di)nitroglykol, Glycoldinitrat	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{H} \end{array}$	152,1	-22	217	
2	Nitroglycerine	NG	Glycerin-el glyceroltrinitrat, Trinitroglycerin	$\begin{array}{c} \text{H} \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{H}-\text{C}-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{H} \end{array}$	227,1	13,5 2,8	223-25	Modifications: 13,5°C triclinic, stable; 2,8°C dipyramidal, rhombic, labile
3	Pentaerythritol tetranitrate	PETN	Pentaerytrit-el Pentaerytritol-tetranitrat, Pentrit, Petryl, Penta, Nitropenta (-erytrit)	$\begin{array}{c} \text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{O}_2\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{NO}_2 \end{array}$	316,2	141,3	202-05	
4	Nitrocellulose	NC	Bomullskrutt Cellulosanitrat	$\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{O} \\ \\ \text{CH}_2 \\ \\ \text{O}_2\text{N}-\text{O} \end{array} \right]_n$	$\sim 10^5$	-	185-190	
5	Hexogen	RDX	Cyclonit, T4, 1,3,5-Trinitro-s-triazin, 1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triaza-cyklohexan	$\begin{array}{c} \text{NO}_2 \\ \\ \text{N} \\ \\ \text{N}-\text{CH}_2-\text{N} \\ \\ \text{NO}_2 \end{array}$	222,1	202	230	Decomposition close above the melting point

contin. Table 1

6

No	Explosive	Abbrev.	Synonym	Formula	Mol.- weight	Melt.- point	Deflagr. temp. C	Remark
6	Octogen	HMX	Homocyclonit, 1,3,5,7-Tetra- nitro-1,3,5,7- tetraazacyklo- oktan		296,2	282	290	Modifications: (α orthoromb) (β monoclinic) (γ monoclinic) (δ hexagonal)
7	Tetryl	TETR	CE, 2,4,6,N-Tetra- nitro-N-metyl- arilin		287,2	131,5	185-195	Melts with decomposition
8	Ammonium picrate	AM-PIKR	Explosive D, Ammonium- 2,4,6-trinit- rofenolat		246,1	265-71	320	Melts with decomposition
9	Hexanitro- stilbene	HNS	2,2',4,4',6,6'- Hexanitrostil- ben		450	316		Decomposition at 280 °C: 5h 7 % 7h 26 % 8h 48 %

contin. Table 1

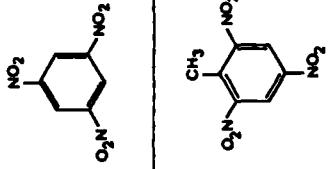
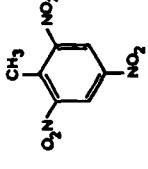
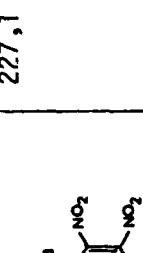
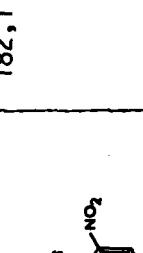
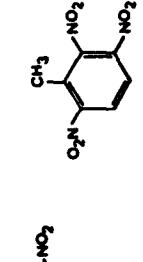
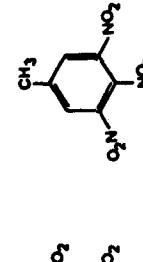
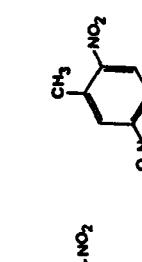
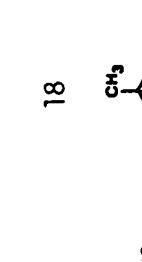
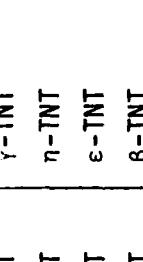
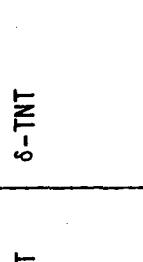
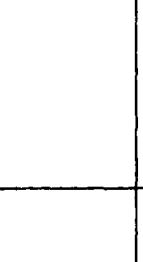
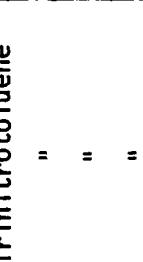
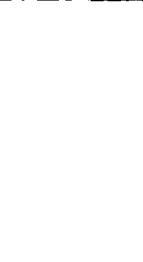
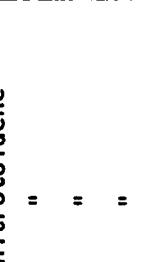
No	Explosive	Abbrev	Synonym	Formula	% O. - weight	Melt.- point	Deflagr. temp. C	Remark
10	Trinitrobenzene	TNB 1,3,5-TNB	Benzit, 1,3,5-Trinitrobenzen		213,1	123,2		
11	Trotyl, 2,4,6-Trinitrotoluene	TNT 2,4,6-TNT	2,4,6-Trinitrotoluene Tri, Trotyl, Trolit, sym-TNT, α-TNT		227,1	80,8	300	Decomposition begins at 180 C

Table 2. List of nitrotoluenes*. Formulas and physical data.

No	Compound	Abbrev	Synonym	Formula	Mol.- weight	Melt.- point
12	2,4,5-Trinitrotoluene	2,4,5-TNT	γ-TNT		227,1	10°
13	2,3,6-	"	2,3,6-TNT		111	11°
14	2,3,5-	"	2,3,5-TNT		97,2	97,2
15	2,3,4-	"	2,3,4-TNT		112	112
16	3,4,5-	"	3,4,5-TNT		137,5	137,5
						
						
						
						
						
17	2,6-Dinitrotoluene	2,6-DNT			182,1	66
18	2,5-	"	2,5-DNT		52,5	52,5
19	2,4-	"	2,4-DNT		70,1	70,1
20	2,3-	"	2,3-DNT		61	61
21	3,5-	"	3,5-DNT		93	93
22	3,4-	"	3,4-DNT		59,8	59,8
						
						
						
						
						
20						21

*2,4,6-Trinitrotoluene, see no 11, table 1.

Contin. Table 2

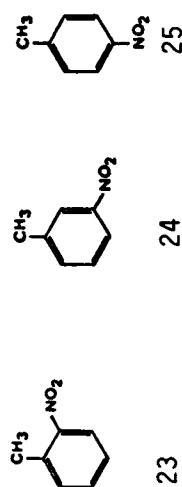
No	Compound	Abbrev	Synonym	Formula	Mol.-weight	Melt.-point
23	2-Nonenitrotoluene	2-MNT	o-nitro-toluene m-" p-"		137,1	{-10,6(α) -4,1(β) 15,5 51,3
24	3-	"				
25	4-	"				

Table 3. Solubilities of explosives (g/100 g at 25 °C unless specified)

Solvent Explosive	Acetone	Aceto-nitrile	Benzene	Butyro-lactone	Dimethyl-formamide	Dimethyl-sulphoxide	Ethanol	Ether	Ethyl-acetate	Chloro-form	Chloro-disulphide	Carbon-tetrachloride	Toluene	Water
1. EGDN	∞	∞	∞				v s	∞	∞	∞	s1 s	ca 2 vol%	∞	0,56
2. NG	∞	∞	∞				54 (20°C)	∞	∞	∞	1,25 vol%	2 vol%	v s	0,15 (20°C)
3. PETN	20,3 (20°C)	0,3 (20°C)					0,20 (20°C)	0,25 (20°C)	6,3 (19°C)	0,06 (19°C)			0,23 (20°C)	s1 s
4. NC ¹	v s						41	0,11 (20°C)	0,055 (20°C)	1,5 (20°C)	s1 s	0,005 (50°C)	0,02 (20°C)	0,006
5. RDX	8,2	5,5	0,05 (20°C)	14	37	2 ³² (20°C)	57							s1 s
6. HMX	2,8	2,0		12			114	0,65	0,46	12 ² (18°C)	0,68	0,024	0,031	3,0 (19,5°C) 0,008
7. TETR	68 vol%		3,5 (20°C)				90	75	0,62 (240°C)	0,004 (240°C)				1,1 (20°C)
8. AM-PIKR							0,4	1,5	1,4	s				s1 s
9. HRS	< 0,1								2,1	1,7	30	6,2	0,24	12
10. TNB(17°C)	59	6,2			142	128	1,5	3,8		25	0,63	0,82	67	0,02
11. TNT	132	88												

1) Ketones, esters and ether + ethanol are common solvents for nitrated cellulose. The solubility depends on degree of nitration.

2) Solvate crystals precipitate.

CHROMATOGRAPHY

High pressure liquid chromatography (HPLC)

High pressure liquid chromatography is used in qualitative as well as in quantitative analysis². Substances of low vapour pressure or of thermal instability are often more easy to analyse by means of high pressure liquid chromatography than by gas chromatography.

The instrumentation used was a Waters Assoc liquid chromatograph, model ALC-GPC-204, equipped with a 254 UV detector, model 440. A μ -Porasil column was used (1/4" x 1", 10 μ , 400 m²/g, Waters Assoc). Eluents were of Uvasol (Merck's) purity. The sensitivity of the detector is approximately of the same order for the aromatic nitro compounds and the nitramines but some ten powers lower in the case of the nitric esters.

Retention volumes of the various explosives are given in table 4. A solvent peak emanating from the sample injected may appear in a HPLC chromatogram. In case the peak is of considerable height it has been indicated.

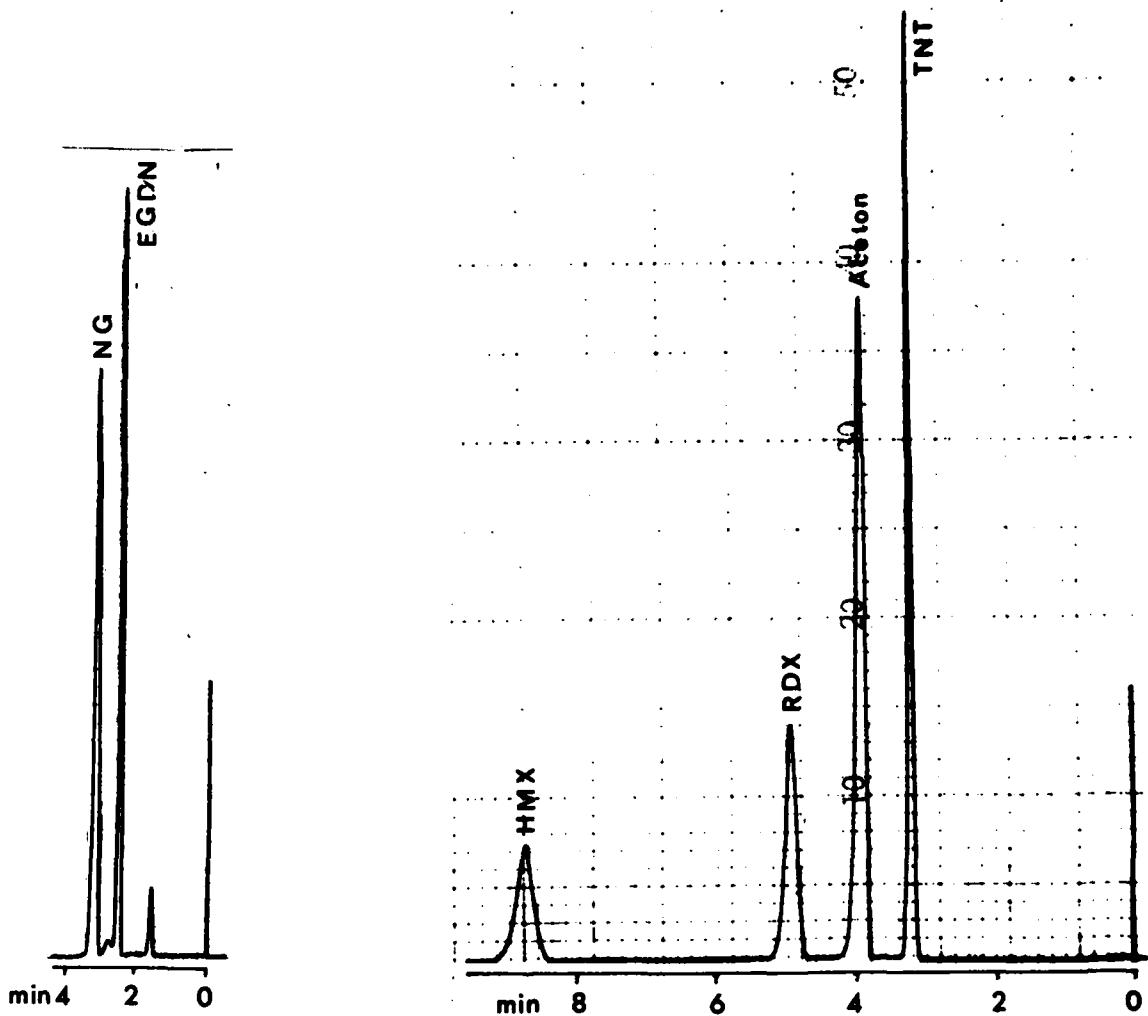
Reversed phase chromatography (Lichrosorb C2 column and water-ethanol as eluent) resulted in chromatograms with less resolved peaks.

Table 4. Retention volumes (ml) of explosives on a μ -Porasil column. $V_M = 3,0$ ml (t = tailing).

Eluent Substance	1	2	3	4	5
11. TNT	3,1	3,1	3,3	5,6	5,0
1. EGDN	3,2	3,3	3,8	4,8	6,1
2. NG	3,2	3,4	4,0	5,2	7,0
10. TNB	3,1	3,3	4,0	7,3	7,5
3. PETN	3,2	3,2	7,0	15,6	8,6
7. TETR	3,3	3,6	7,0	15,9	31,0
9. HNS	3,2	3,2	3,6	> 40	> 40
5. RDX	4,8	11,4	> 40	> 40	
6. HMX	8,6	> 40	> 40		
CHCl ₃			3,0	3,3	3,2
Acetone	3,7	3,8	3,9	t	t

Eluents:

1. Chloroform-acetonitrile 90:10
2. Chloroform
3. c-Hexane-chloroform 50:50
4. c-Hexane-dichloromethane 70:30
5. c-Hexane-chloroform 80:20



Column:
 μ -Porasil

Eluent:
c-Hexane-dichloromethane, 70:30

Flow rate:
2,0 ml/min

Sample volume:
10 μ l

Sample conc:
Totally 2 % in ethanol
EGDN:NG 1:1

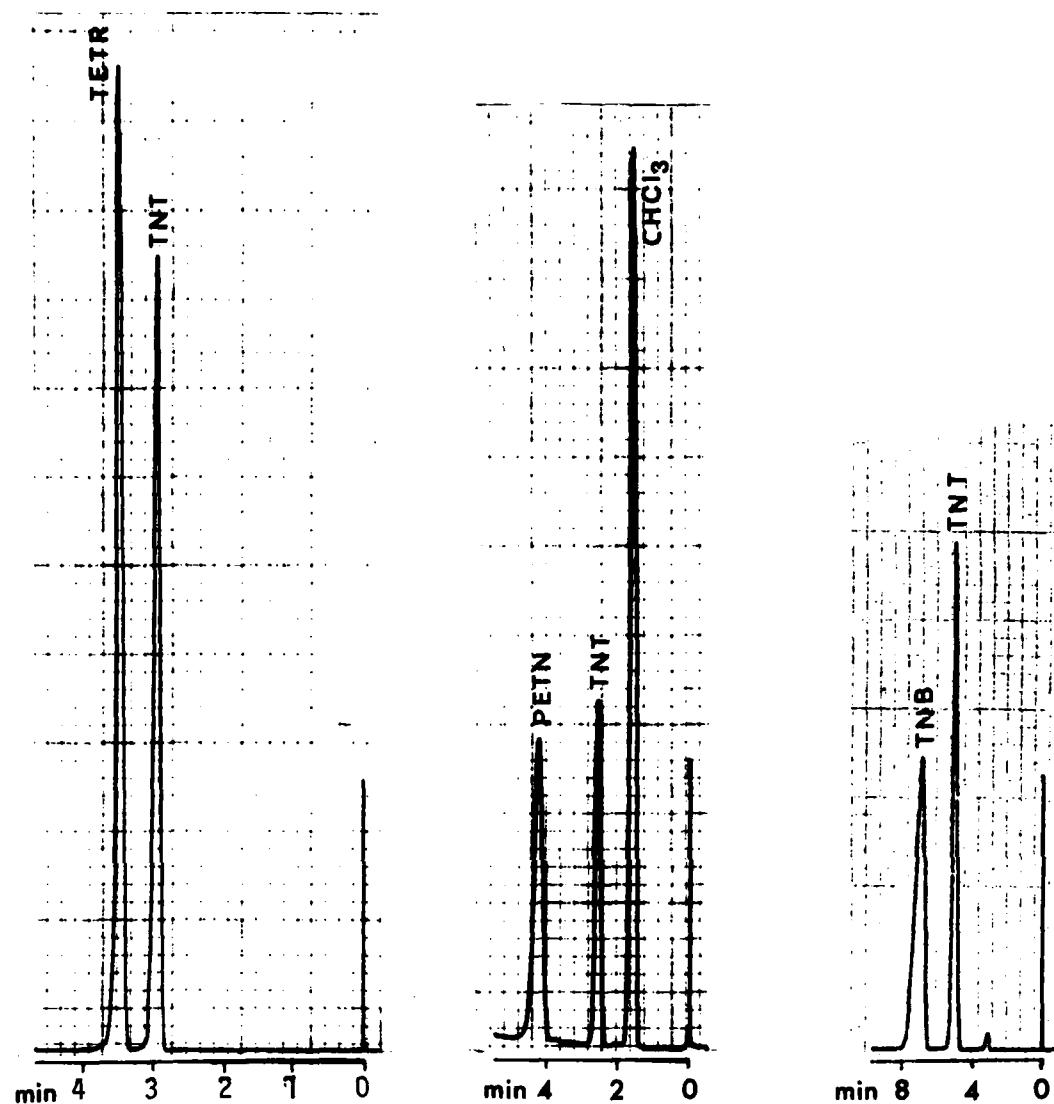
Column:
 μ -Porasil

Eluent:
Chloroform-acetonitrile, 90:10

Flow rate:
1,0 ml/min

Sample volume:
3 μ l

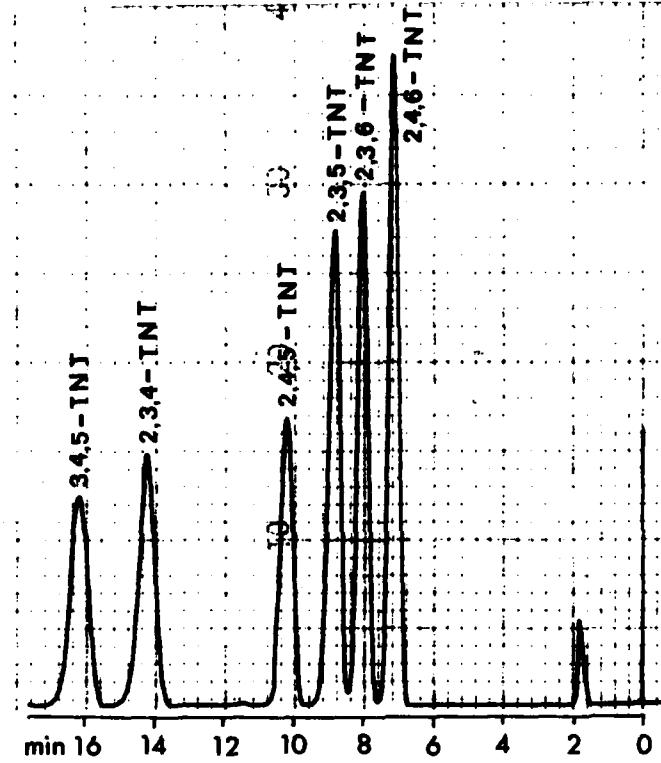
Sample conc:
Totally 0,6 % in acetone
TNT:RDX:HMX 1:1:1



Column:
 μ -Porasil
 Eluent:
 Chloroform
 Flow rate:
 1,0 ml/min
 Sample volume:
 10 μ l
 Sample conc:
 Totally 0,07 % in chloroform
 TNT:TETR 3:4

Column:
 μ -Porasil
 Eluent:
 c-Hexane-chloroform,
 80:20
 Flow rate:
 2,0 ml/min
 Sample volume:
 20 μ l
 Sample conc:
 Totally 0,03 % in
 chloroform
 TNT:PETN 1:300

Column:
 μ -Porasil
 Eluent:
 c-Hexan-chloroform,
 80:20
 Flow rate:
 1,0 ml/min
 Sample volume:
 20 μ l
 Sample conc:
 Totally 0,01 % in
 chloroform
 TNT:TNB 1:1



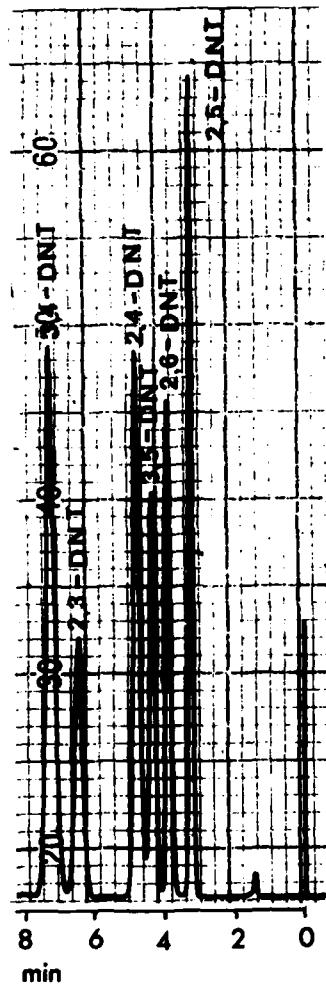
Column:
μ-Porasil

Eluent:
c-Hexan-dichloromethane, 87,5:12,5

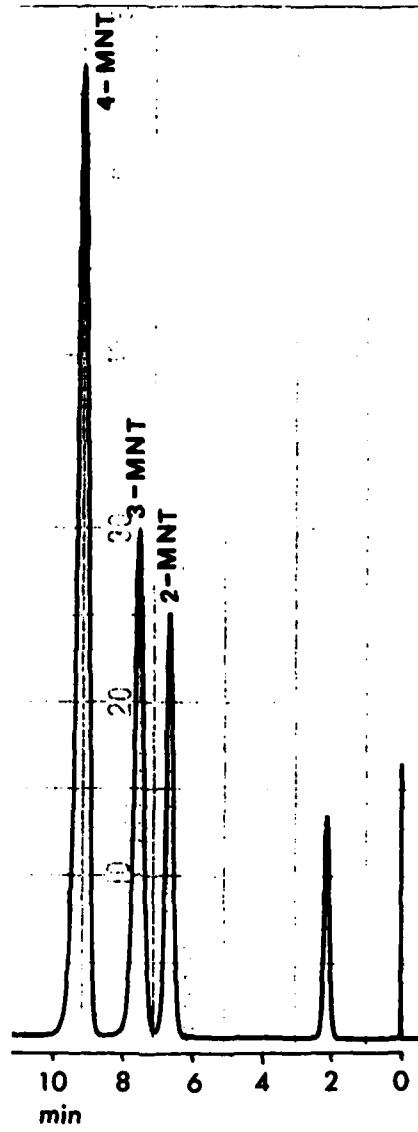
Flow rate:
2,0 ml/min

Sample volume:
20 μl

Sample conc:
Totally 0,02 %



Column:
 μ -Porasil
 Eluent:
 c-Hexan-chloroform, 95:5
 Flow rate:
 2,5 ml/min
 Sample volume:
 10 μ l
 Sample conc:
 Totally 0,1 %



Column:
 μ -Porasil
 Eluent:
 c-Hexane
 Flow rate:
 1,0 ml/min
 Sample volume:
 10 μ l
 Sample conc:
 Totally 0,05 %

Gas chromatography (GC)

Gas chromatography is used in qualitative as well as in quantitative analysis and has been applied in analyses of hexitol samples.

The instrument used was a Varian gas chromatograph model 3700, equipped with a flame ionization detector. Columns of Pyrex glass were used, having OD 1/4", ID 1.5 mm, and the lengths of 0.75 m and 3 m. Data on column length, stationary phase, flow rates of gases, temperatures and sample size are given below each chromatogram. In all cases a sample volume of 1 μ l was injected.

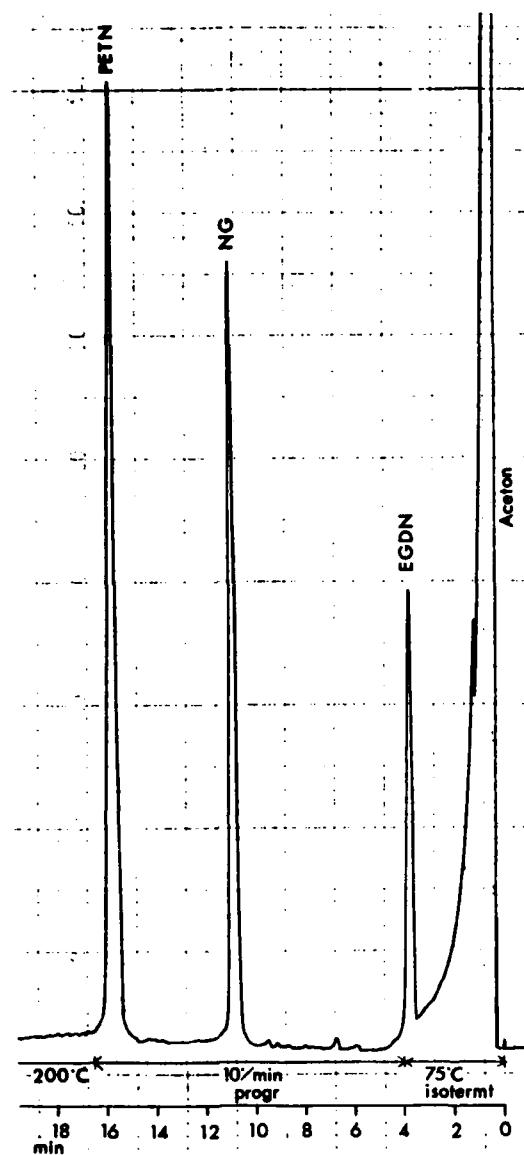
Because of their low vapour pressures the substances Nos 4(NC), 6(HMX), 8(AM-PIKR) and 9(HNS) were not chromatographed.

1 EGDN

3 PETN

2 NG

17



Column: 5% DC 550 on Chromosorb W-HP, 0,75 m x 1,5 mm

Temp:

Column: Progr Start: 75°C during 4 min, 10°/min
Final temp 200°C

Inj: 130°C

Det: 220°C

Flow rate:

N₂ 20 ml/min

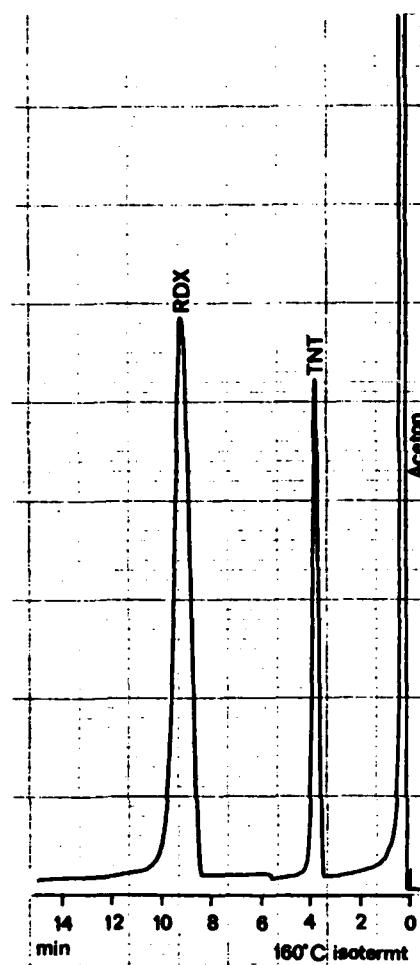
H₂ 20 ml/min

Air 250 ml/min

Sample conc: Totally 2 % in acetone
EGDN:NG:PETN = 1:2:3

18 11 TNT

5 RDX



Column: 5 % DC 550 on
Chromosorb W-HP
0,75 m x 1,5 mm

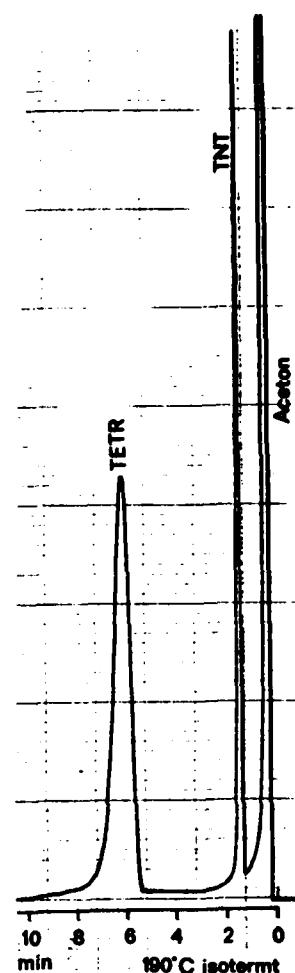
Temp:
Column: 160°C isotherm
Inj: 170°C
Det: 190°C

Flow rate:
N₂ 20 ml/min
H₂ 20 ml/min
Air 250 ml/min

Sample conc:
Totally 0,35 % in acetone
TNT : RDX = 2 : 7

11 TNT

7 TETR



Column: 5 % DC 550 on
Chromosorb W-HP
0,75 m x 1,5 mm

Temp:
Column: 190°C isotherm
Inj: 190°C
Det: 200°C

Flow rate:
N₂ 20 ml/min
H₂ 20 ml/min
Air 250 ml/min

Sample conc:
Totally 0,5 % in acetone
TNT : TETRYL = 1 : 2

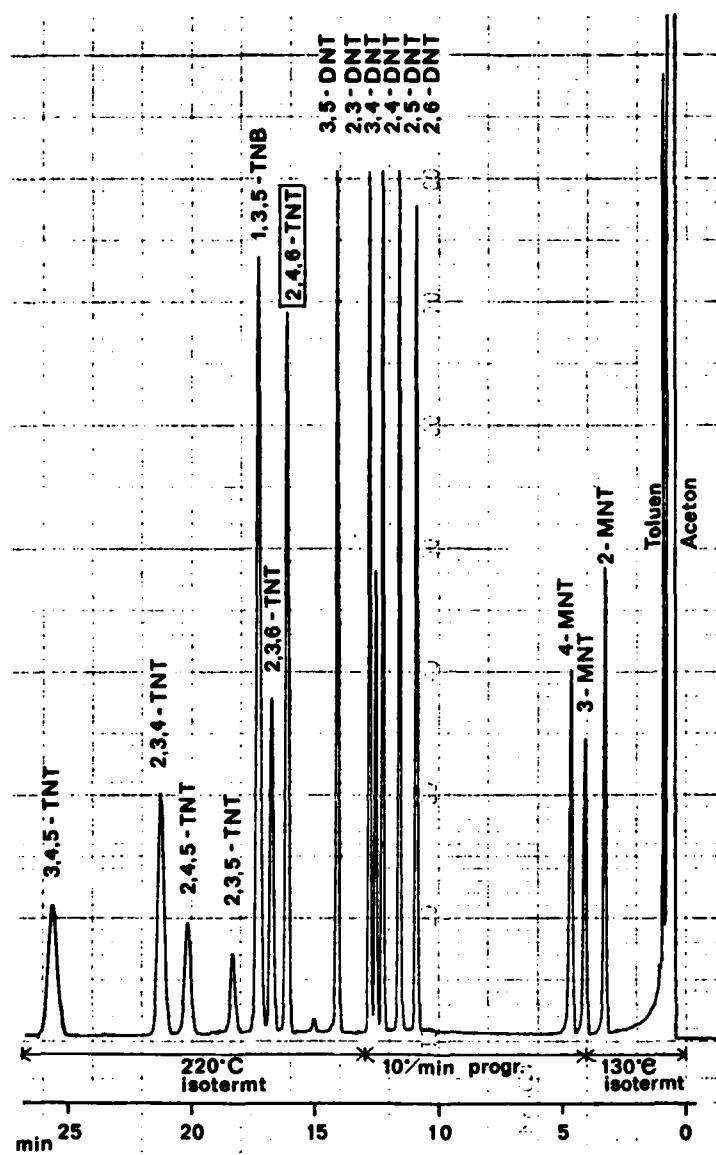
10 TNB

16 - 22 DNT

11 - 15 TNT

23 - 25 MNT

19



Column: 3 % OV 225 on Chromosorb W-HP, 3 m x 1,5 mm

Temp:

Column: Progr Start: 130°C during 4 min, 10°/min
Final temp 220 °C

Inj: 150°C

Det: 230°C

Flow rate:

N₂ 20 ml/min

H₂ 20 ml/min

Air 250 ml/min

Sample conc: Totally 0,5 % in acetone
MNT:DNT:TNT:TNB = 3:12:6:1

SPECTROSCOPY

The purity of the samples was verified by gas chromatography.

Mass spectrometry (MS)

The mass spectra were recorded with a LKB Model 2091 single focus 9 spectrometer. The substances were analyzed by EI (electron impact) at electron voltages of 70 and 20 eV and by CI (chemical ionization) with methane (1 Torr) as ionization media.

The majority of the samples were introduced into the mass spectrometer via a gas chromatograph. The columns used were identical to those specified in the chapter of gas chromatography. The substances Nos. 6(HMX) and 7(TETR) were introduced through the direct inlet, those of low vapour pressure Nos. 4(NC), 8(AM-PIKR), and 9(HNS) were not examined.

Data on mode of ionization, electron voltage, ion source temperature and characteristic fragments are given together with the spectrum.

Infrared spectroscopy (IR)

The IR spectra were recorded with a Perkin Elmer grating spectrometer model 377. Time constant: Auto; Scan mode: 13 min; Slit: N.

The majority of the samples were prepared in the form of a KBr disc composed of 0.5 - 1.8 mg substance in 300 mg KBr (diameter 13 mm, thickness 1 mm, applied pressure 1.500 kg/cm²). The substances Nos. 1, 2, and 23 - 25 were dissolved in CC_l₄ (0.1 - 0.2 M) and analyzed in a 0.12 mm NaCl-cell. Substance No. 4(NC) was analyzed as a film prepared from a solution of the sample in acetone.

Significant band assignments and sample concentration are given at each spectrum.

Table 5. IR-frequencies of (x)-NO₂ associated with nitric esters, nitramines and nitro compounds.

Substance group	(x)-NO ₂ (cm ⁻¹)	x
Nitric esters Nos. 1 - 4	1660 - 1640; 1285 - 1270	0
Nitramines Nos. 5 - 6	1590 - 1530; 1310 - 1270	N
Nitro compounds Nos. 7 - 25	1560 - 1520; 1370 - 1340	C

Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)

This method is used both in quantitative and qualitative analysis and has been applied in analyses of hexitol samples¹³.

¹H NMR

Proton spectra¹⁴ were obtained at 60 MHz on a Varian NV-14 spectrometer (CW). The internal reference was tetramethylsilane (TMS). The spectra were recorded with a sweep time of 500 seconds. Sample concentrations were 2 - 3 % in acetone-d₆*, except 9(HNS) and 4(NC) which were dissolved in dimethylsulfoxide-d₆** and 1(EGDN)dissolved in CCl₄. To 2(NG) acetone was added.

The chemical shifts of the different protons are indicated by letter symbols in formula and spectrum. Certain parts of the spectra have been expanded.

¹³C NMR

Carbon-13 spectra¹⁵ were obtained at 20 MHz with a Varian CFT 20 spectrometer system, equipped with a 10 mm probe. The pulse interval varied between 1 to 3 seconds. The internal reference was tetramethylsilane (TMS) and the spectra obtained are proton decoupled.

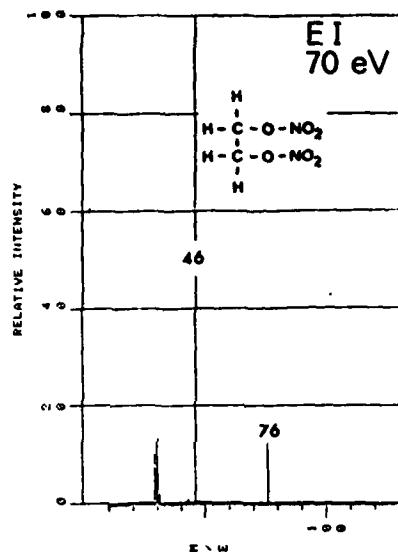
Sample concentrations were 3 - 8 % w/v in acetone-d₆, except 2(NG) and 9(HNS) which were 5 % in CCl₄ and 1 % in dimethylsulfoxide-d₆, respectively. To shorten the relaxation times, Cr(acac)₃ was added to a concentration of 3.6×10^{-2} M, except for 1 (EGDN) and 4(NC).

The line assignments are indicated by a letter at the corresponding carbon atom in the structure. The large solvent peaks from acetone-d₆ and dimethylsulfoxide-d₆ around 30 and 40 ppm, respectively, are not presented.

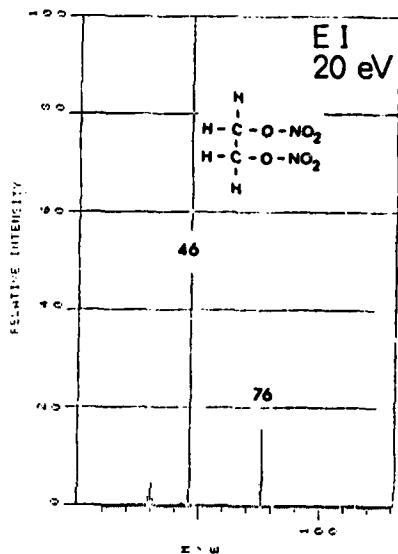
* Signal at 2.05 ppm

** Signal at 2.50 ppm

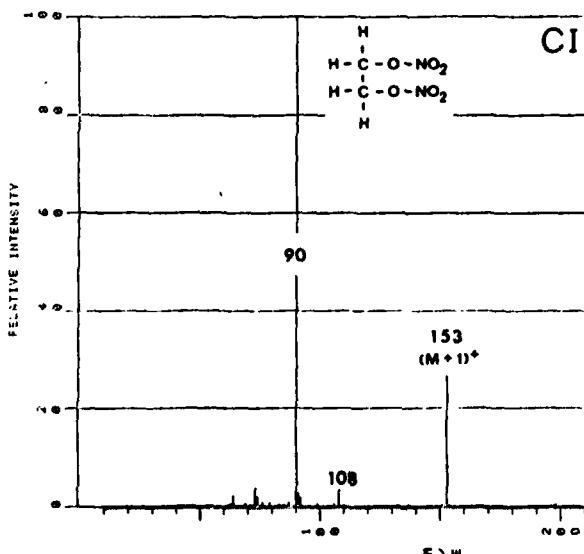
EGDN



Inlet: GC
Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C

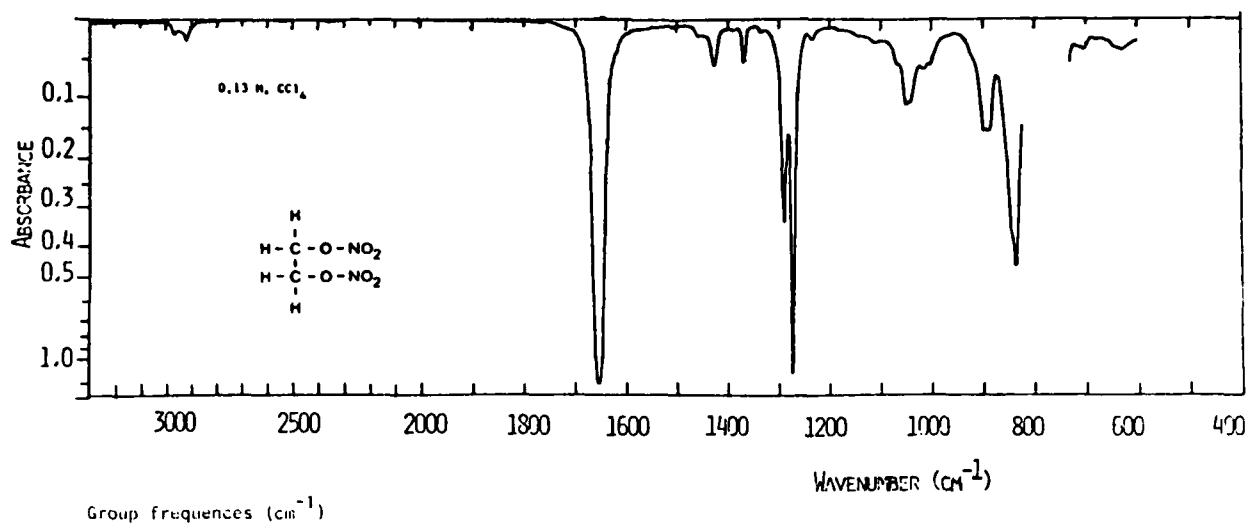
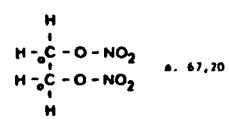
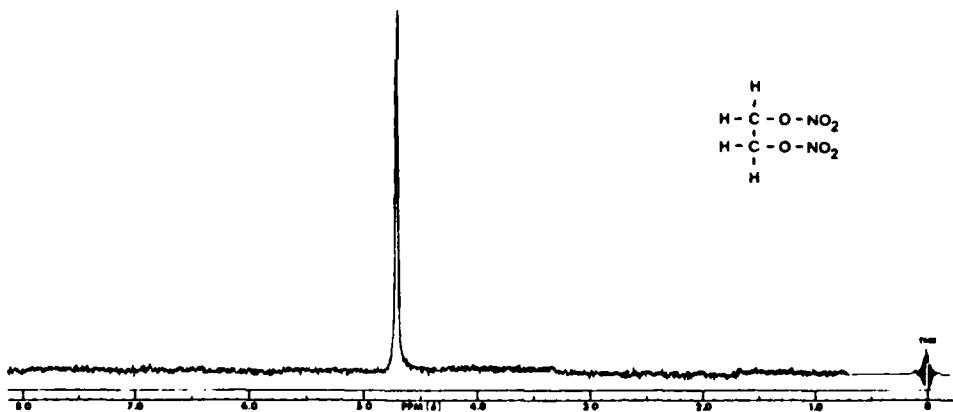
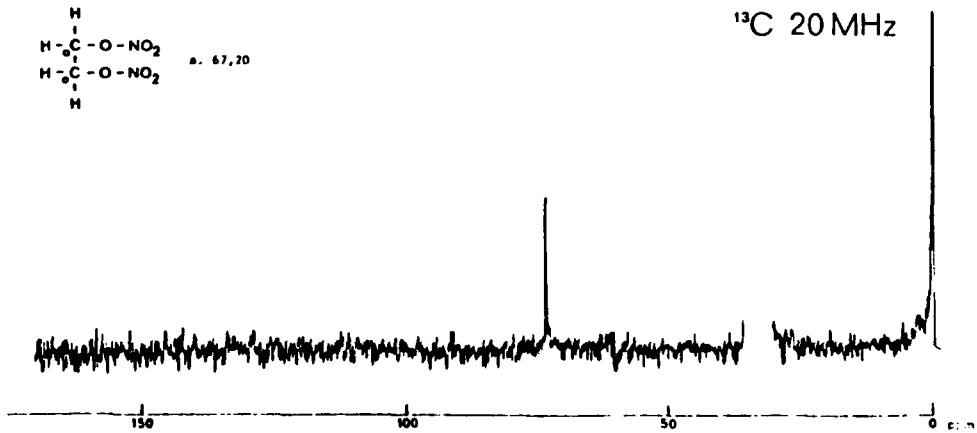


Inlet: GC
Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C

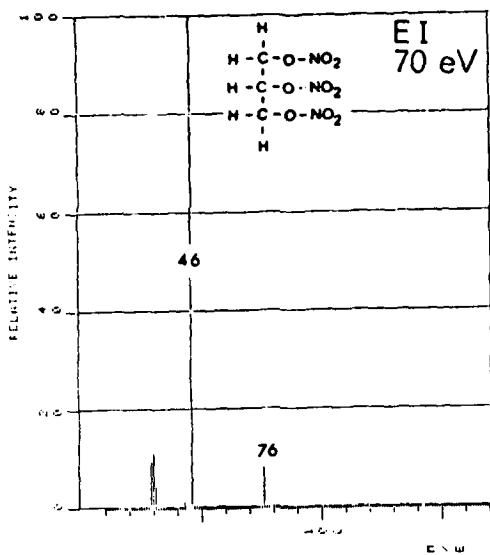


Inlet: GC
Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C

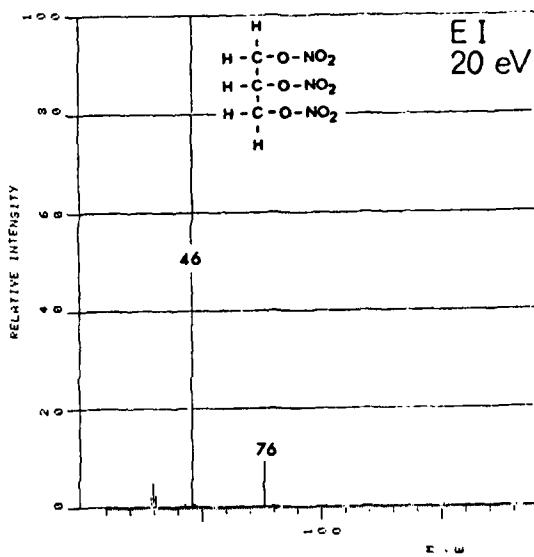
(1)

 ^1H 60 MHz ^{13}C 20 MHz

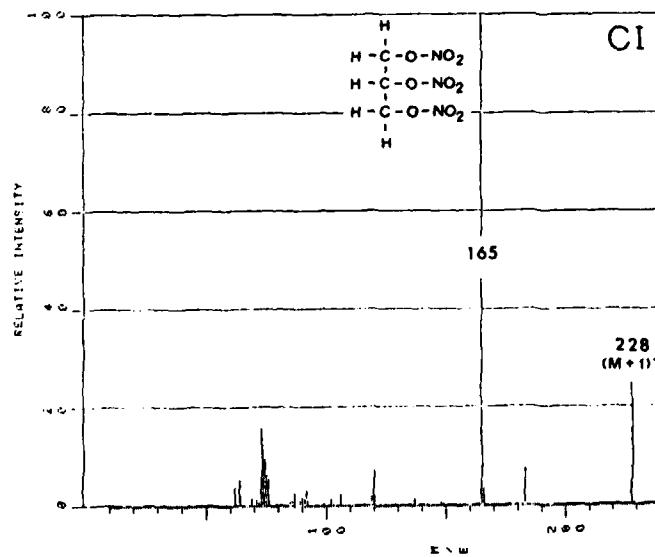
NG



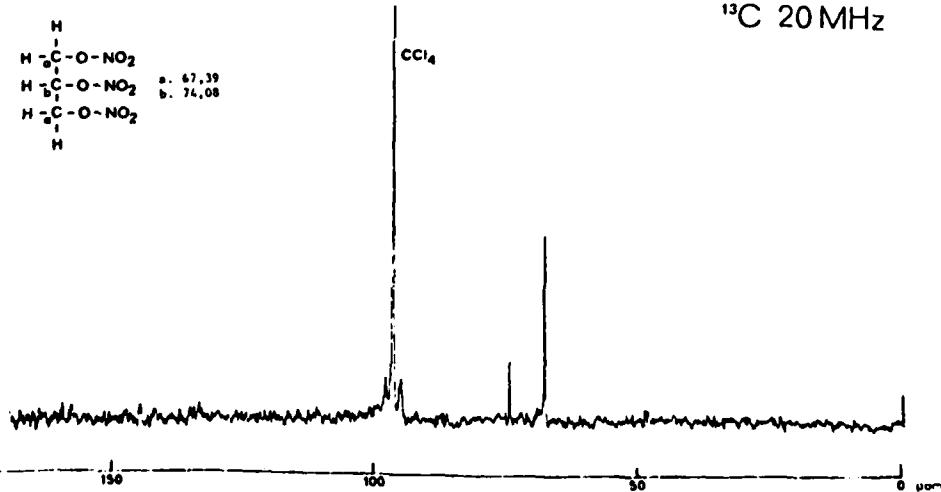
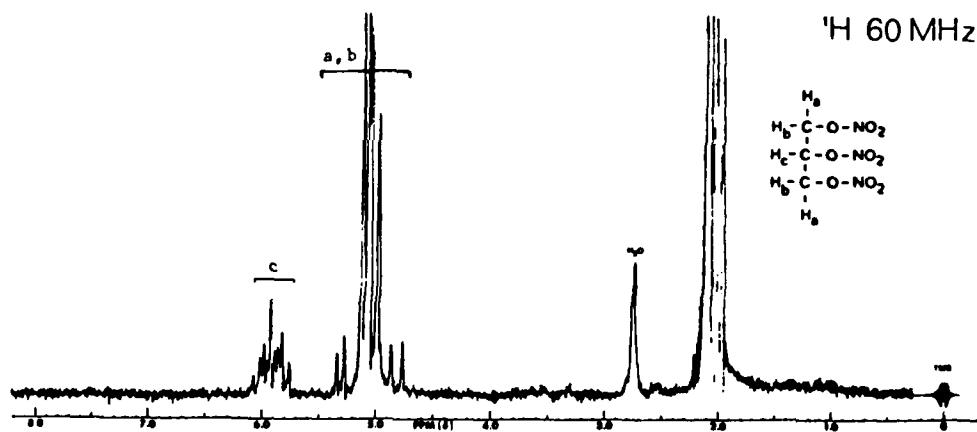
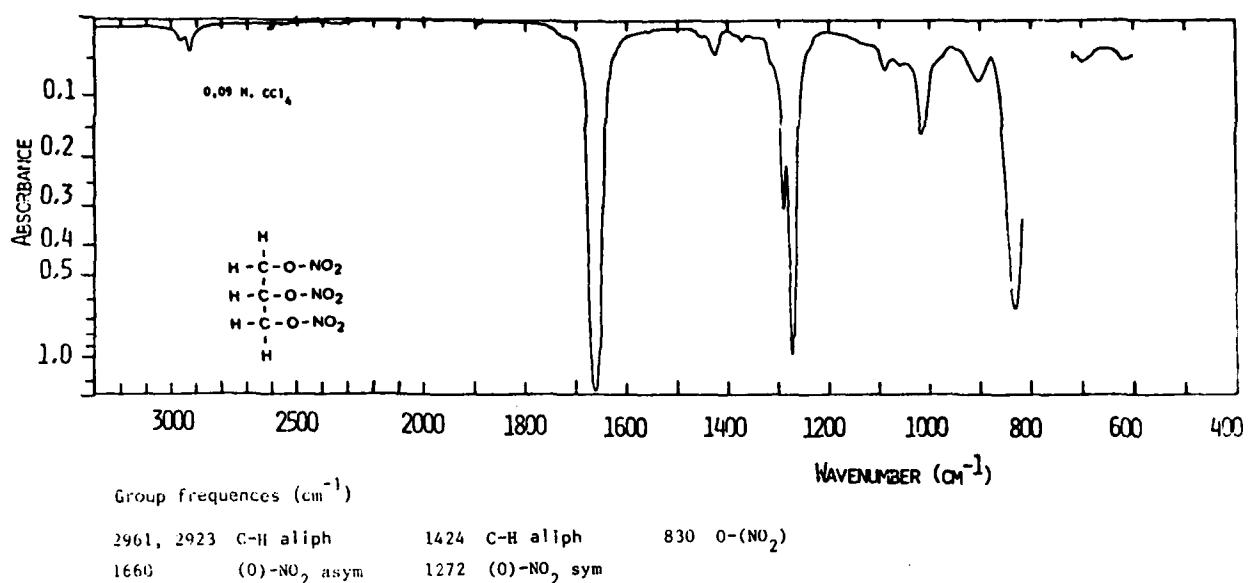
Inlet: GC
 Column: DC 550
 Ion source: 150 °C



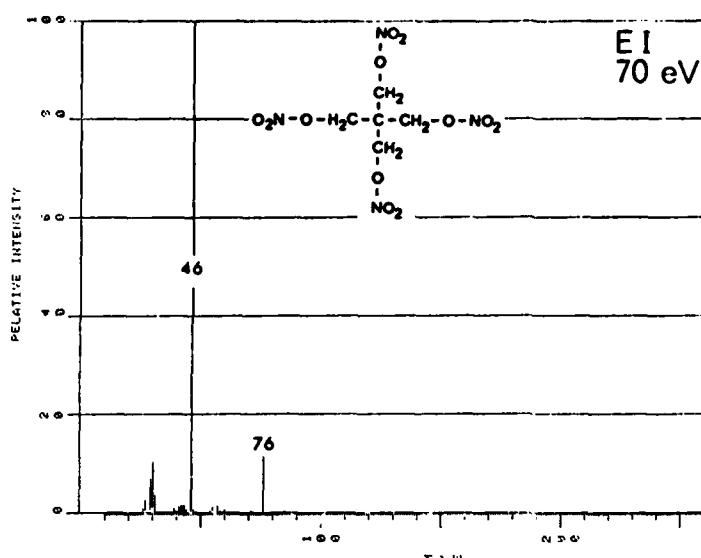
Inlet: GC
 Column: DC 550
 Ion source: 150 °C



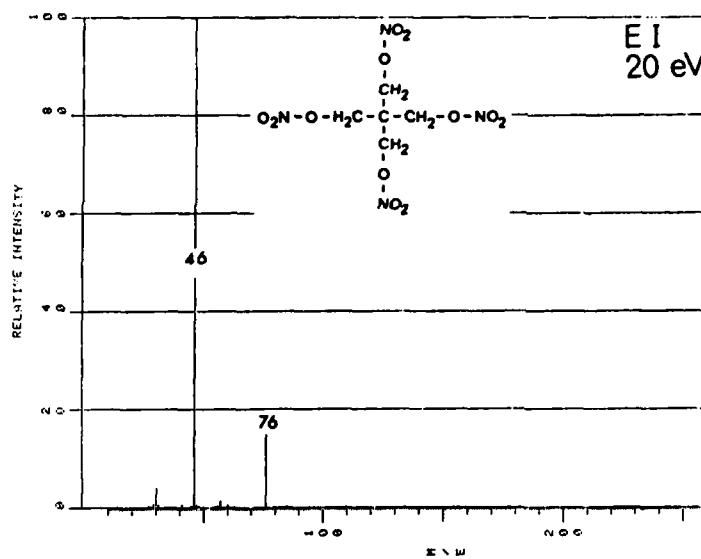
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 Ion source: 150 °C



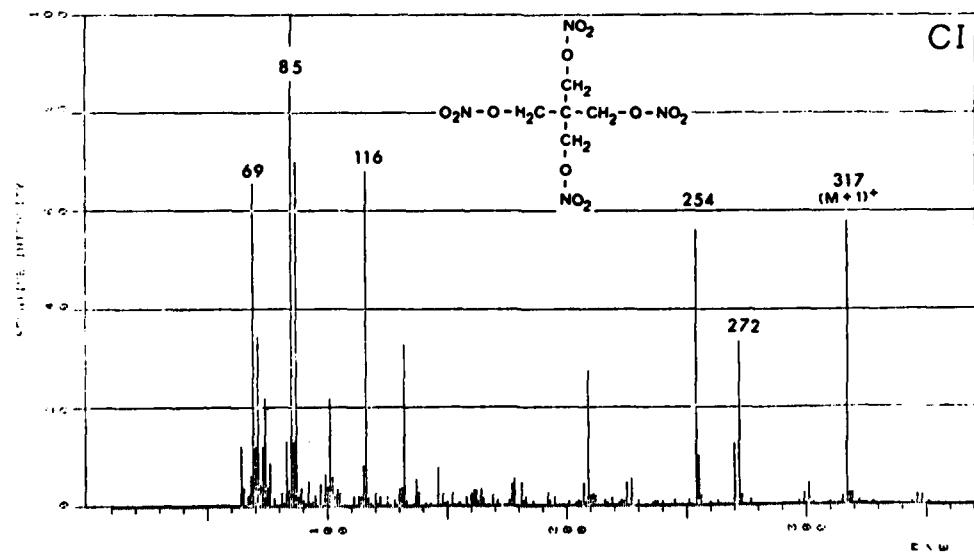
PETN



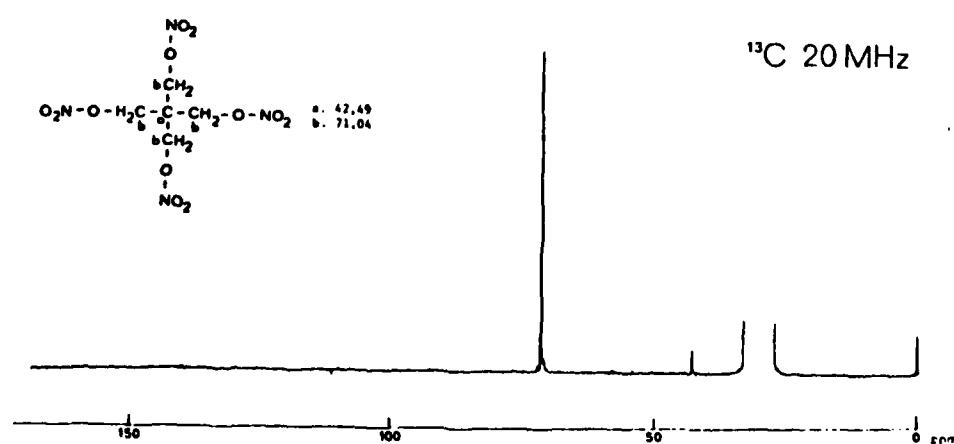
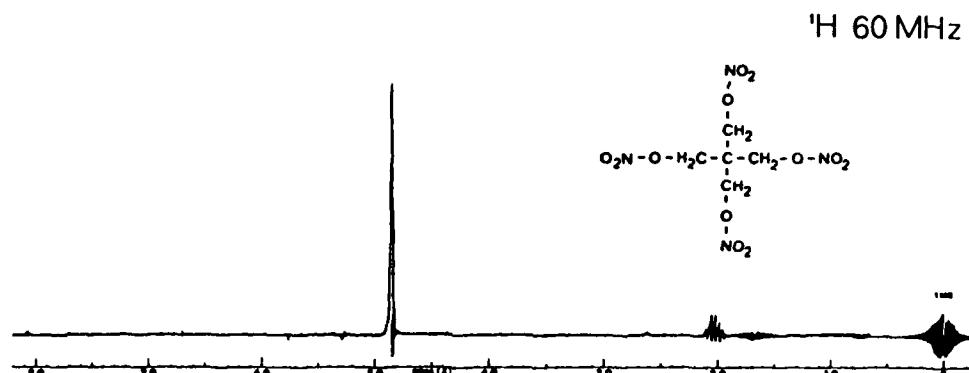
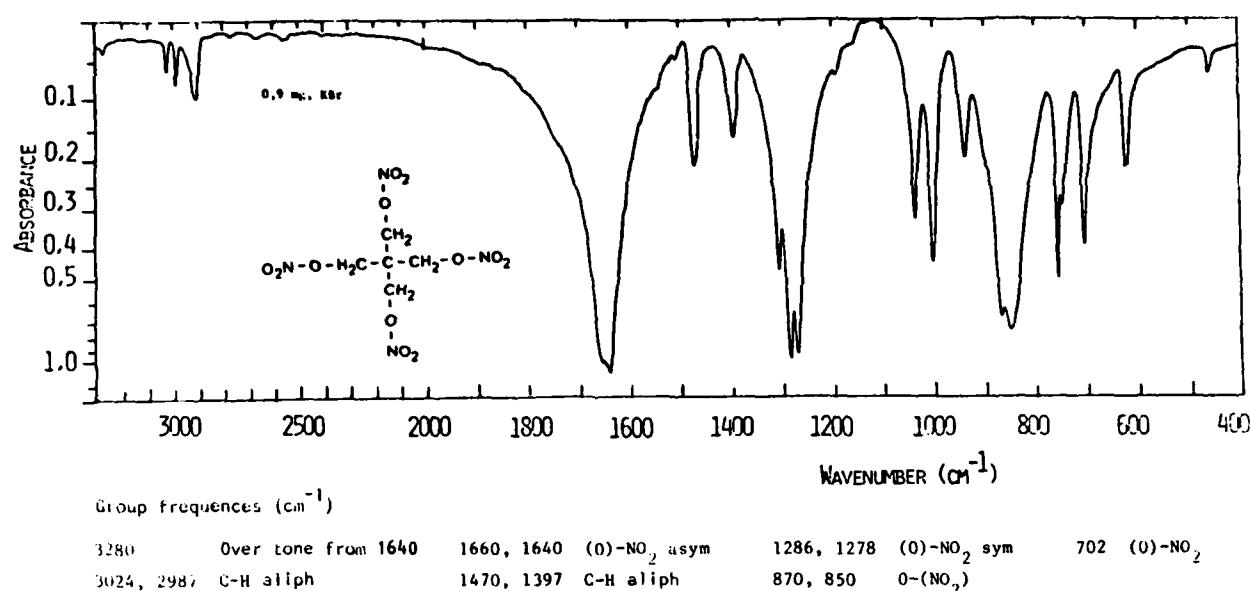
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Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C



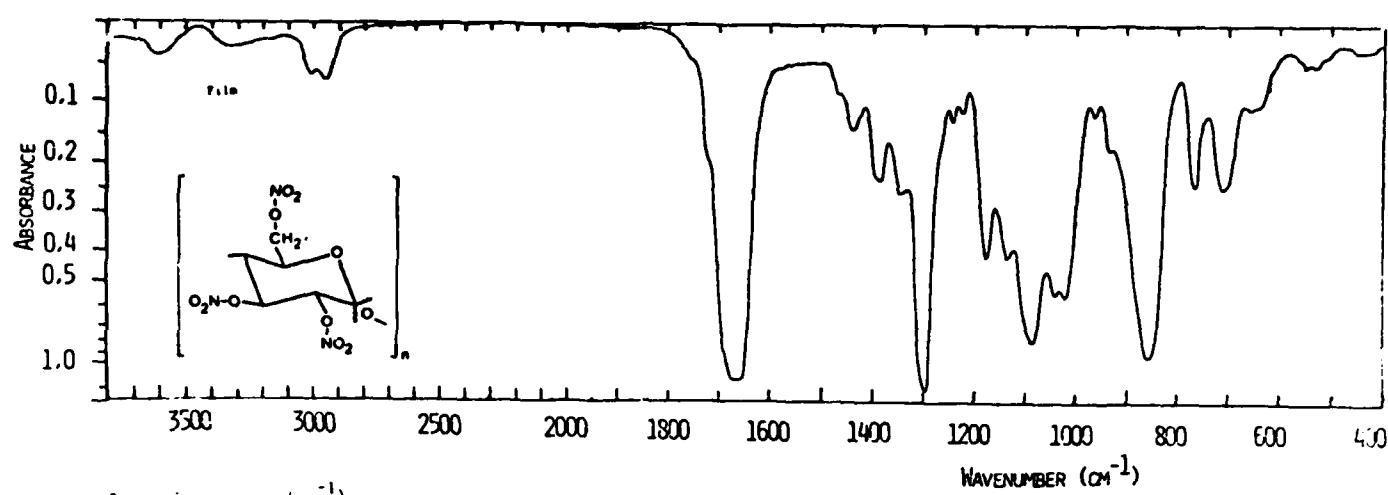
Inlet: GC
Column: DC 550
Ion source: 150 °C



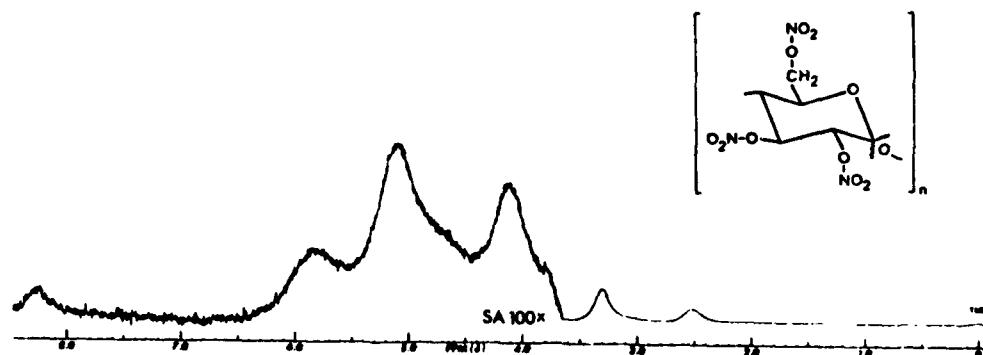
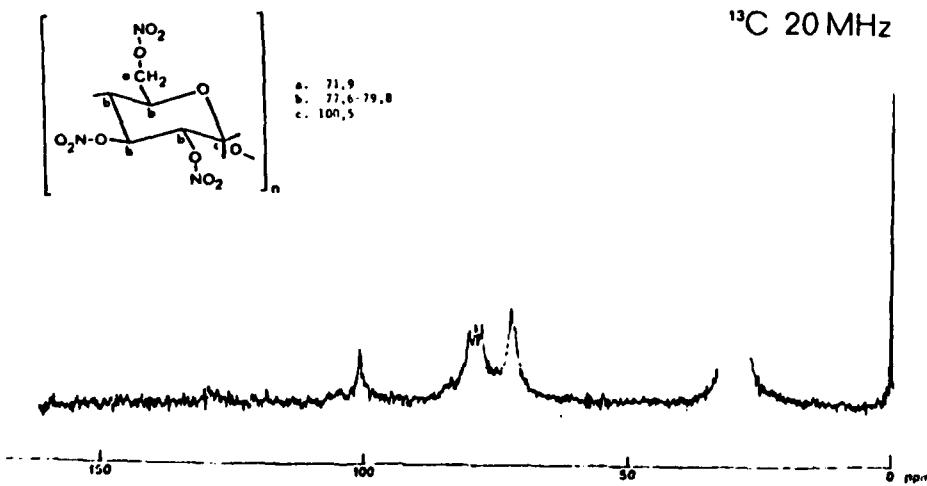
28

NC

See page 20.

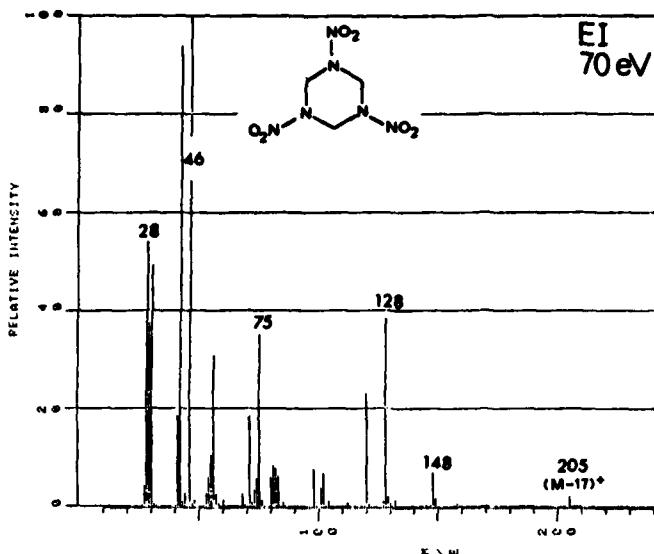
Group frequencies (cm⁻¹)

3600	OH free	3020, 2940	C-H aliph	1440	C-H aliph	1082	C-O-C	765, 705, 550	(O)-NO ₂
3350	OH bound	1670, 1650	(O)-NO ₂ asym	1295	(O)-NO ₂ sym	855	O-(NO ₂)		

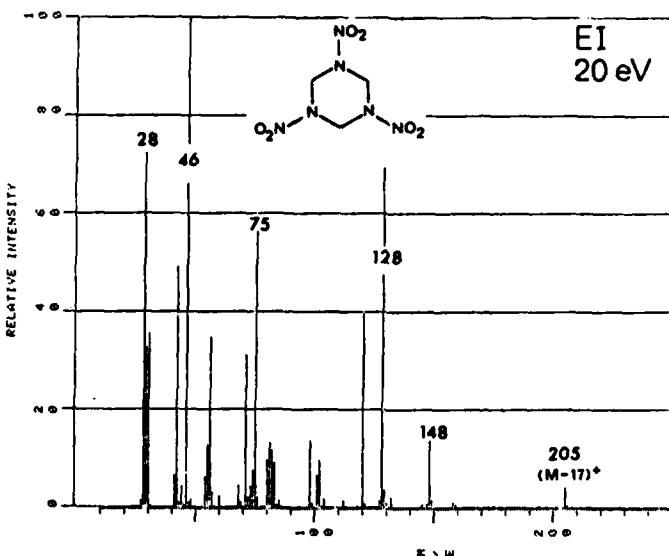
¹H 60 MHz¹³C 20 MHz

30

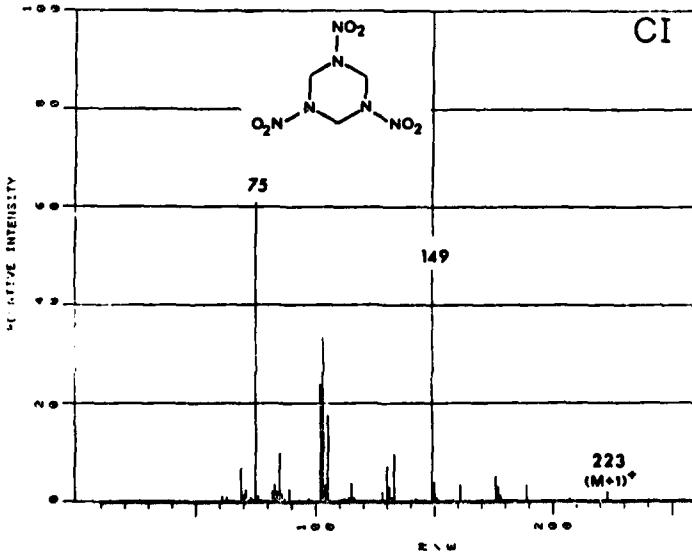
RDX



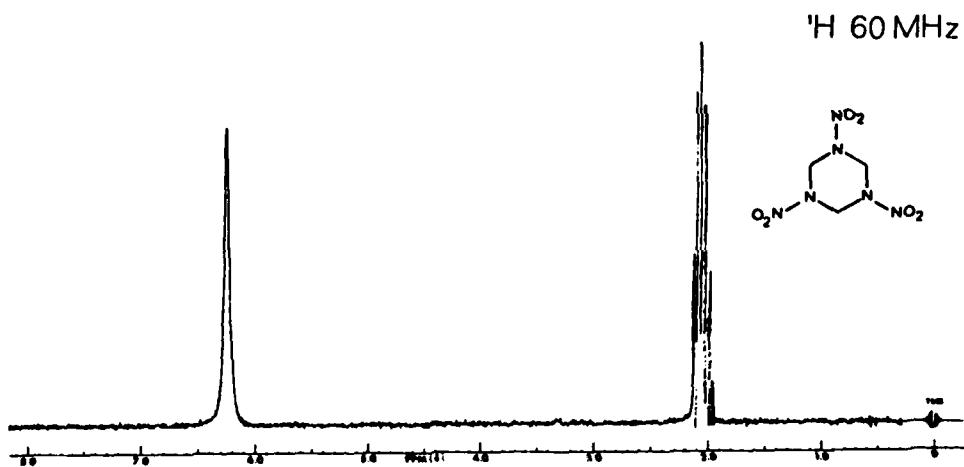
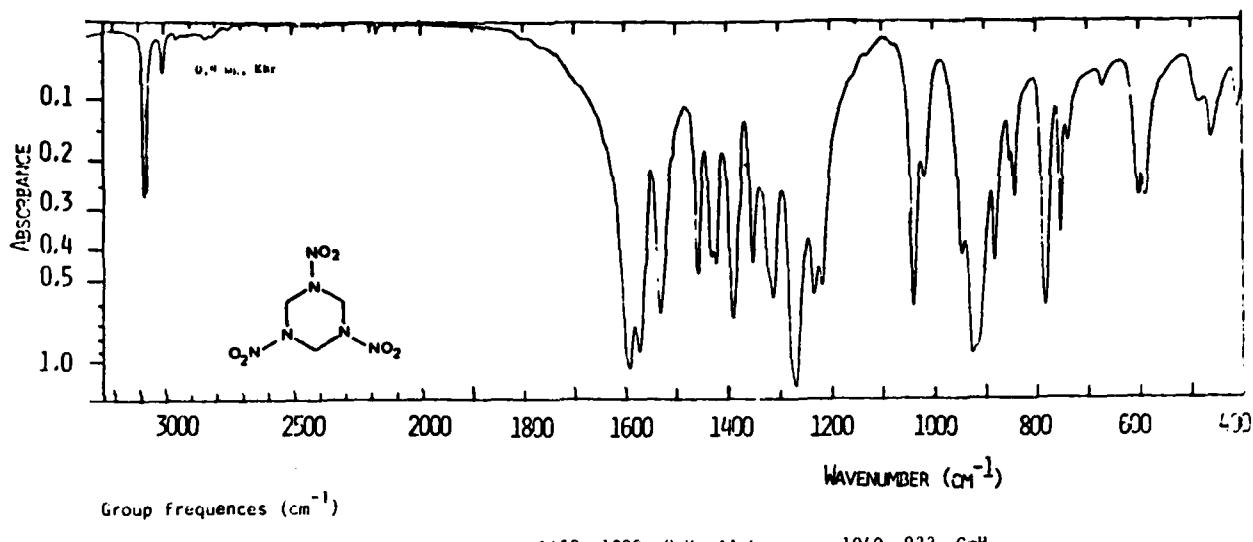
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 Column: DC 550
 Ion source: 150 °C



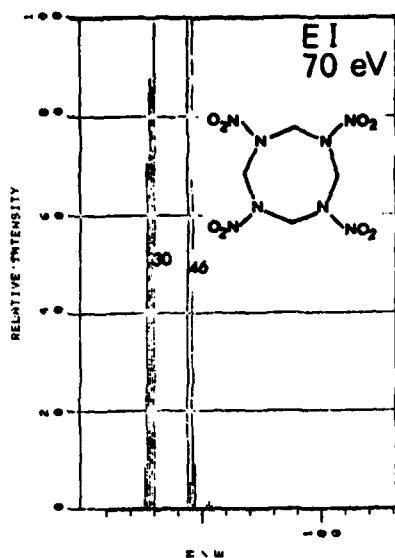
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 Ion source: 150 °C



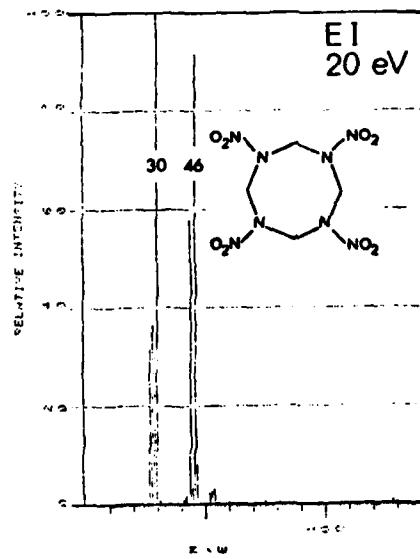
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 Ion source: 150 °C



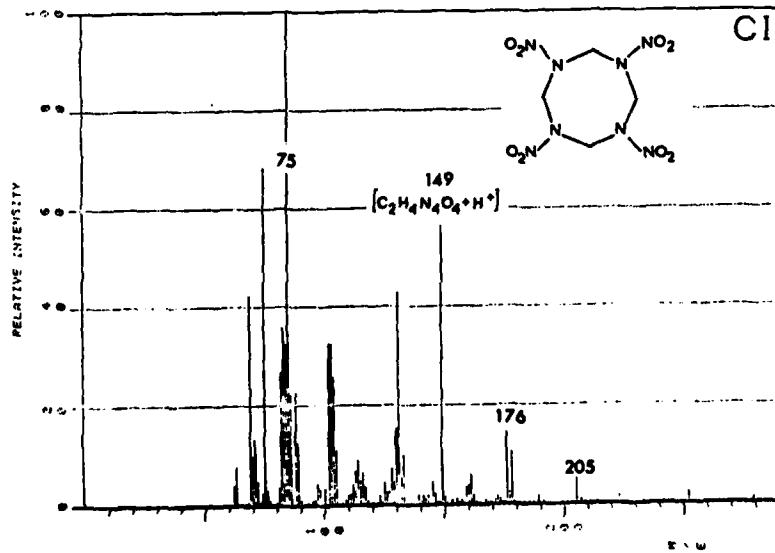
HMX



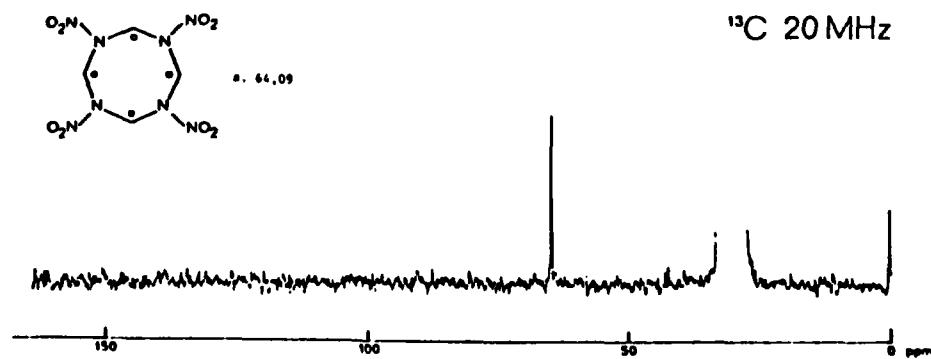
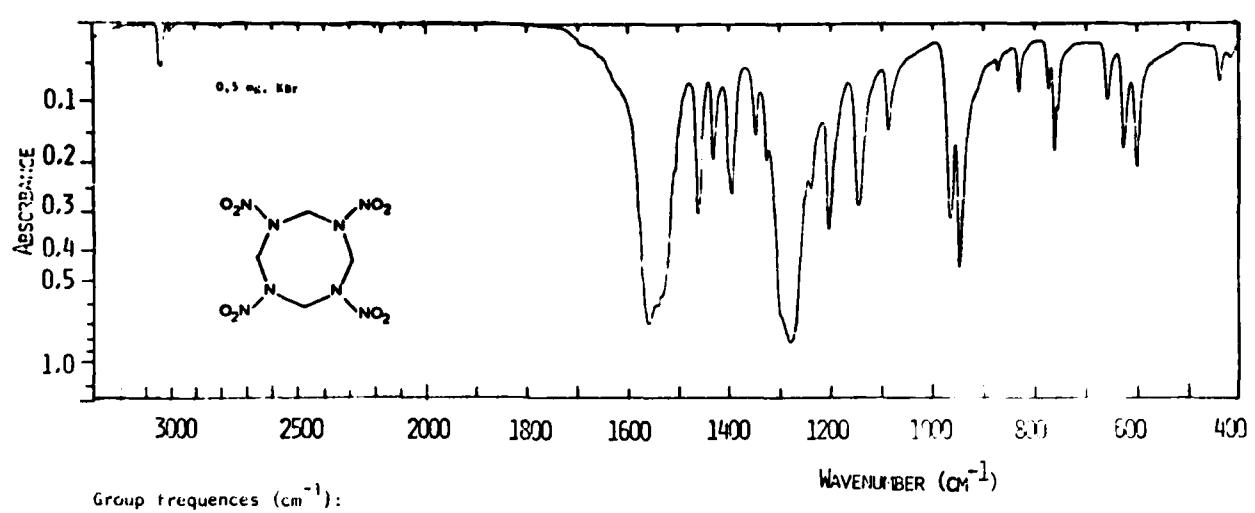
Inlet: Directly
Temp: 105 °C
Ion source: 150 °C



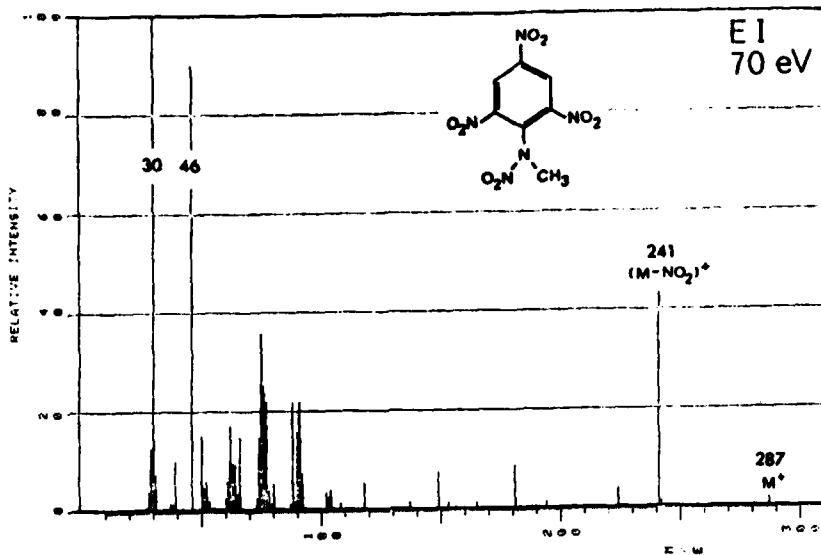
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Ion source: 150 °C



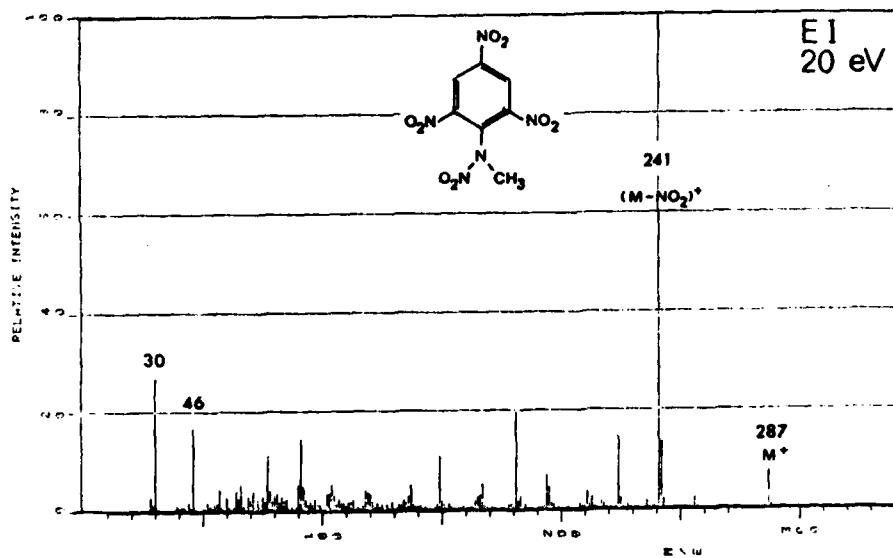
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Ion source: 120 °C



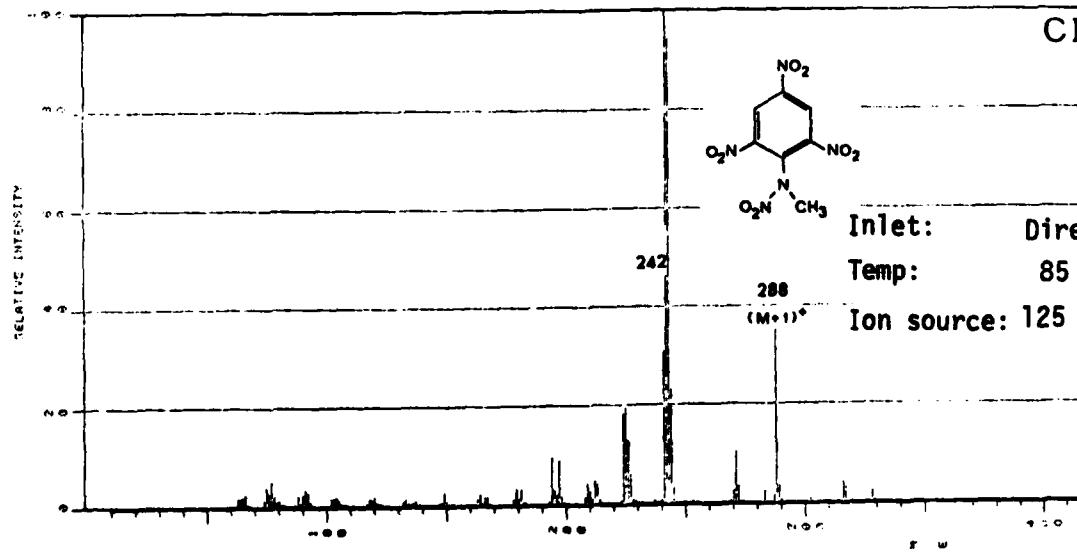
TETR



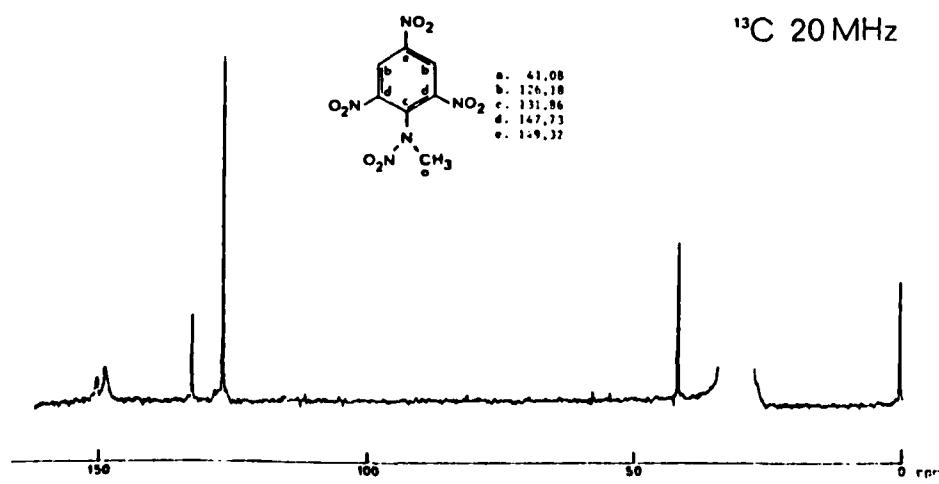
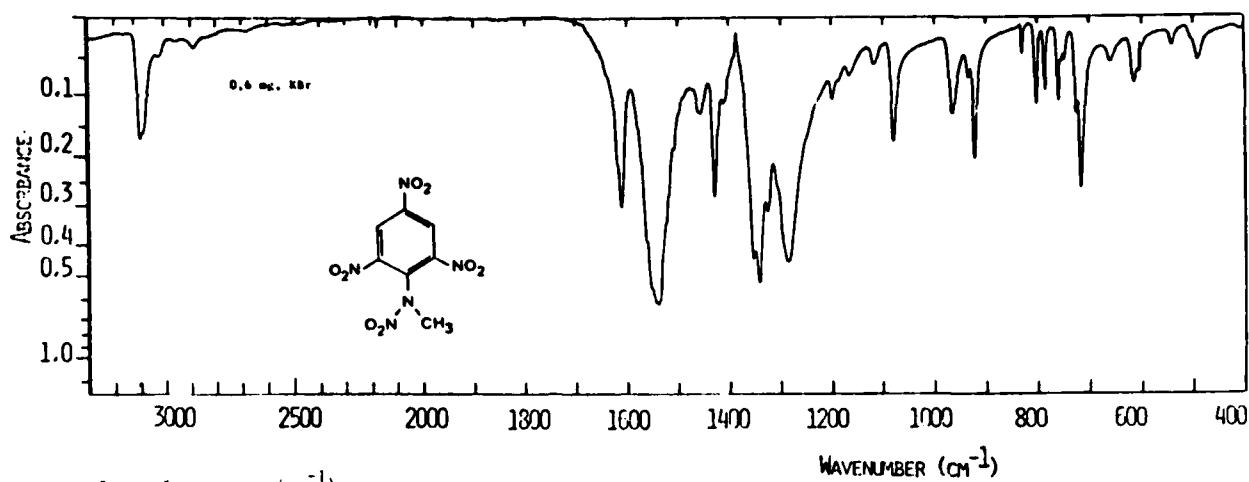
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Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: Directly
Temp: 85 °C
Ion source: 150 °C



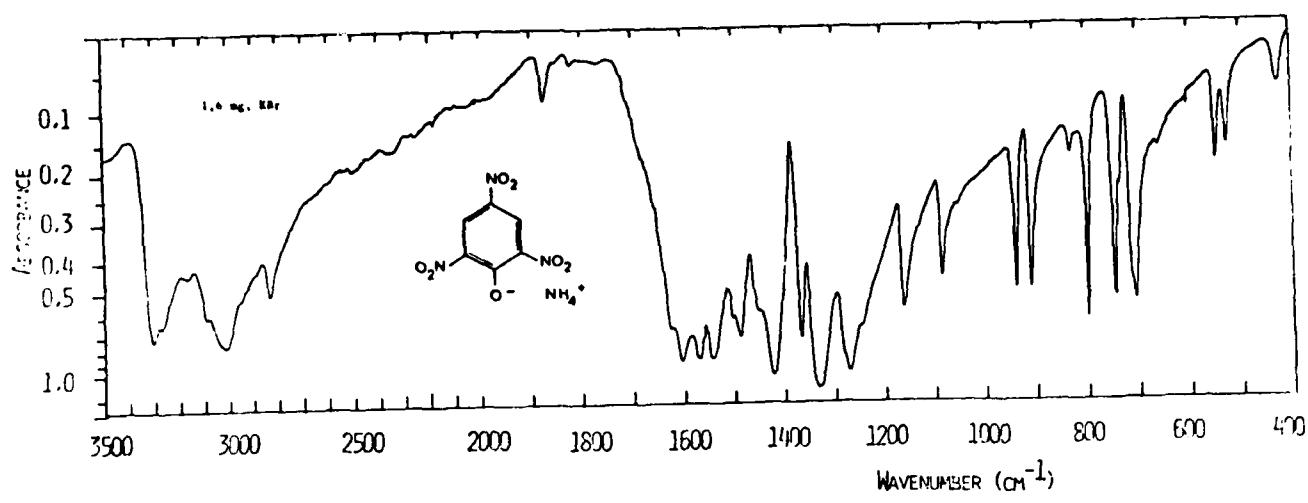
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Ion source: 125 °C



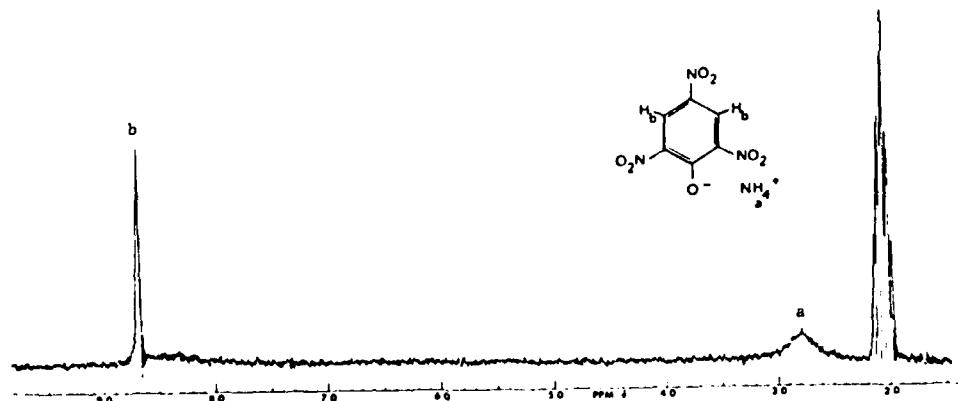
36

AM-PIKR

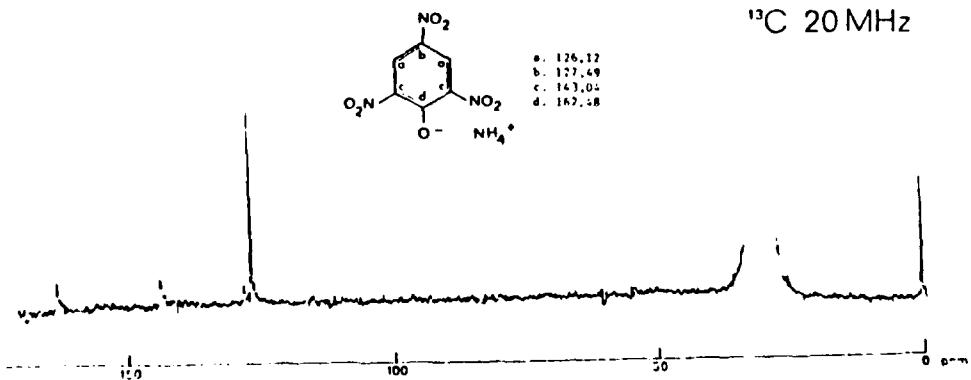
See page 20



¹H 60 MHz



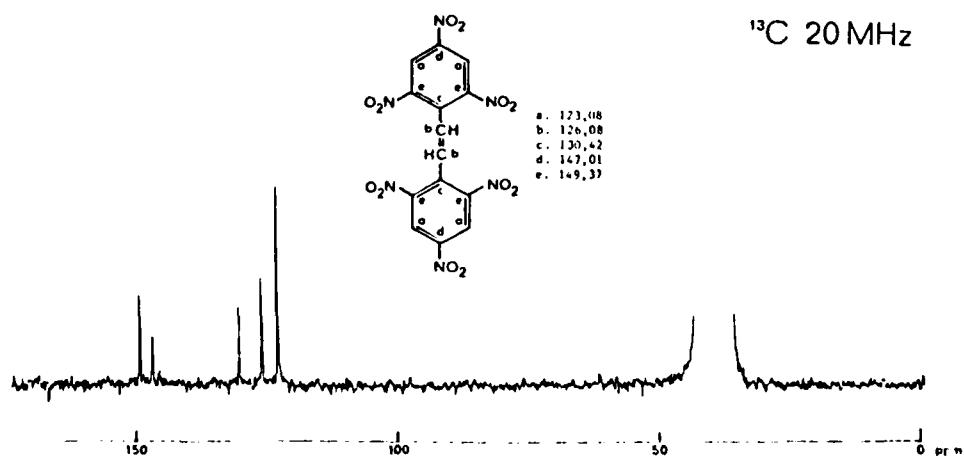
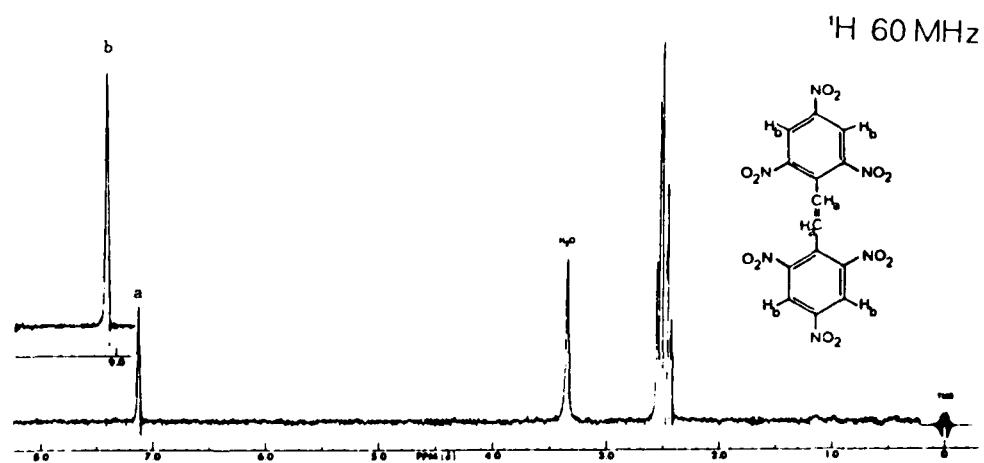
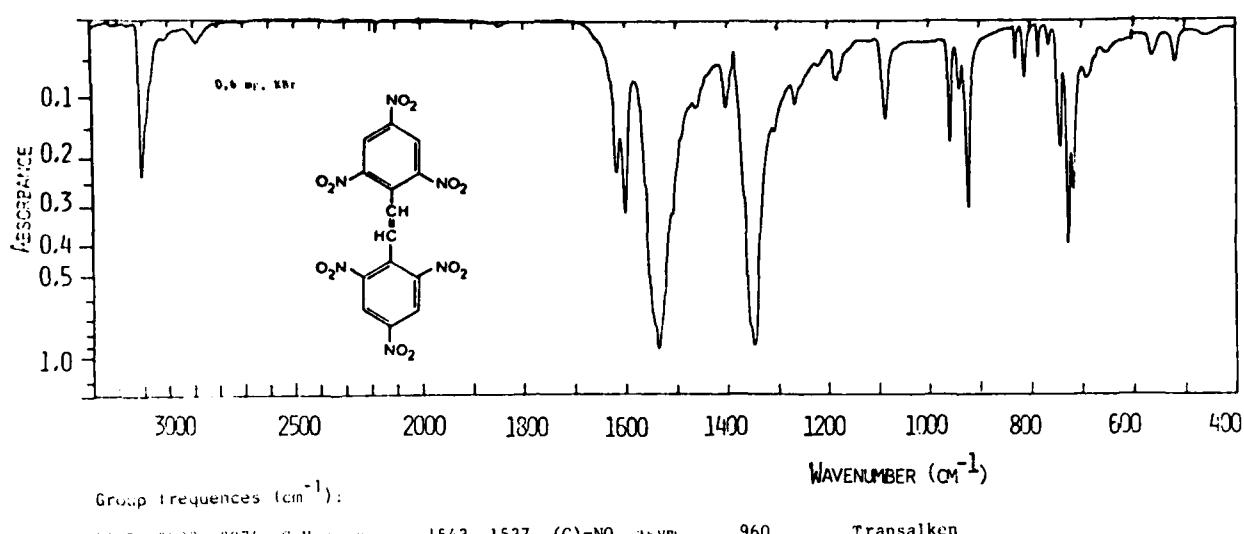
¹³C 20 MHz



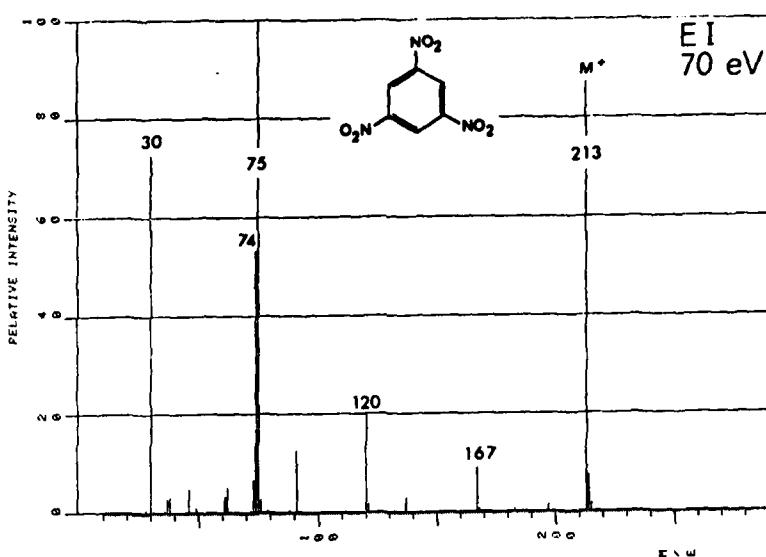
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HNS

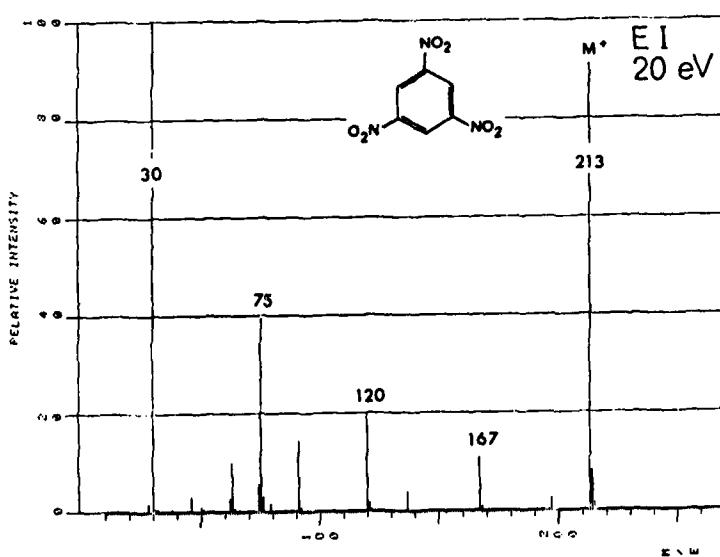
See page 20



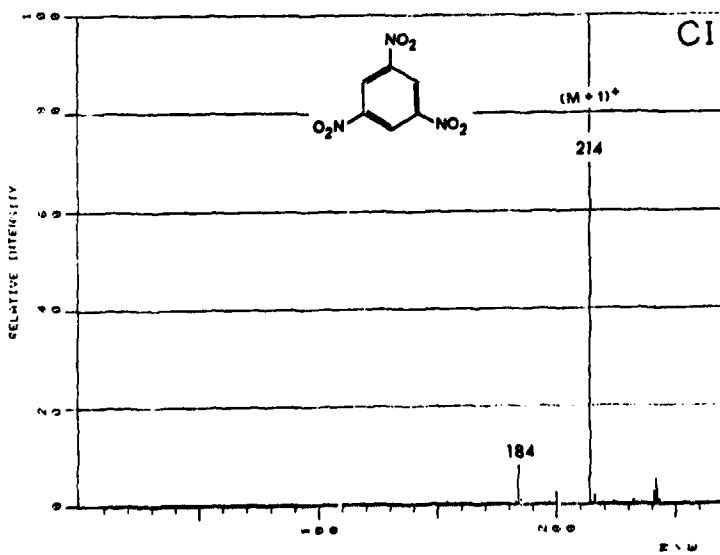
TNB : 1,3,5-TNB



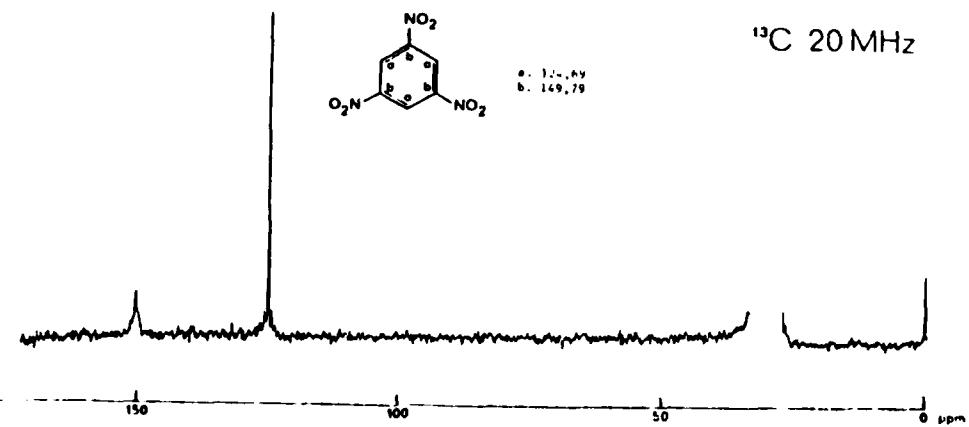
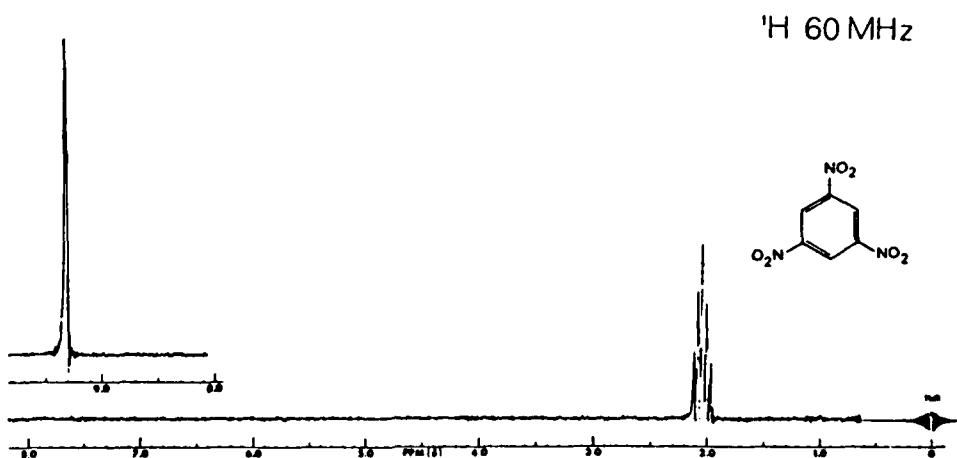
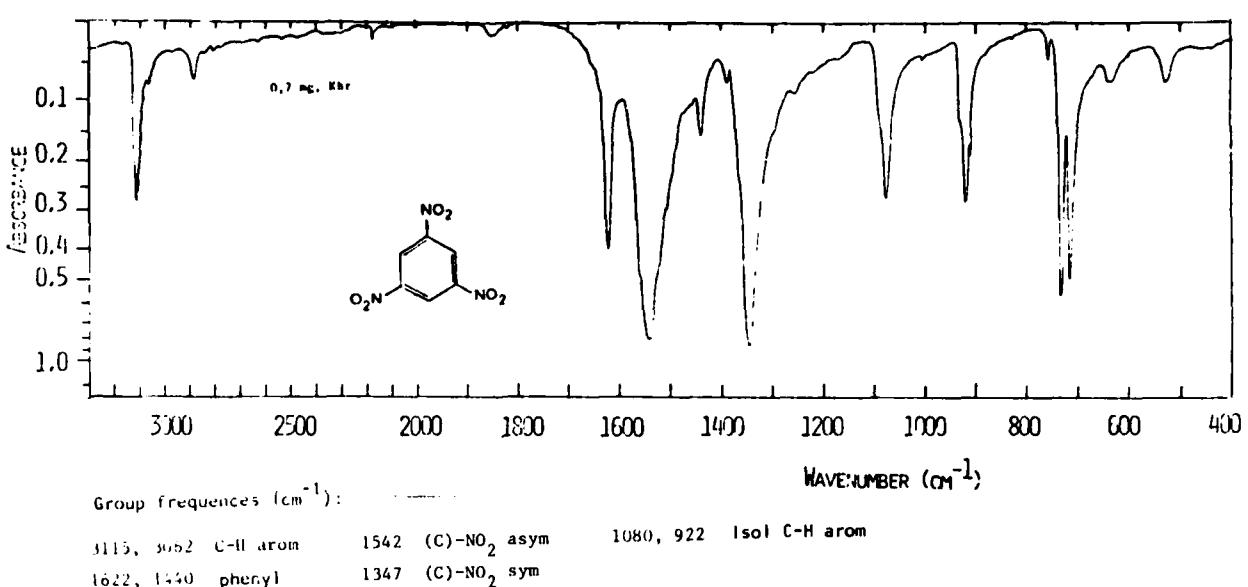
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 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



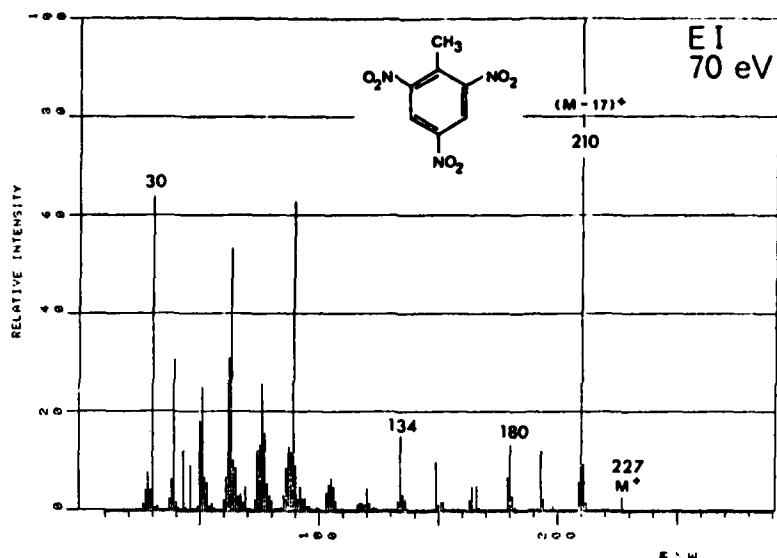
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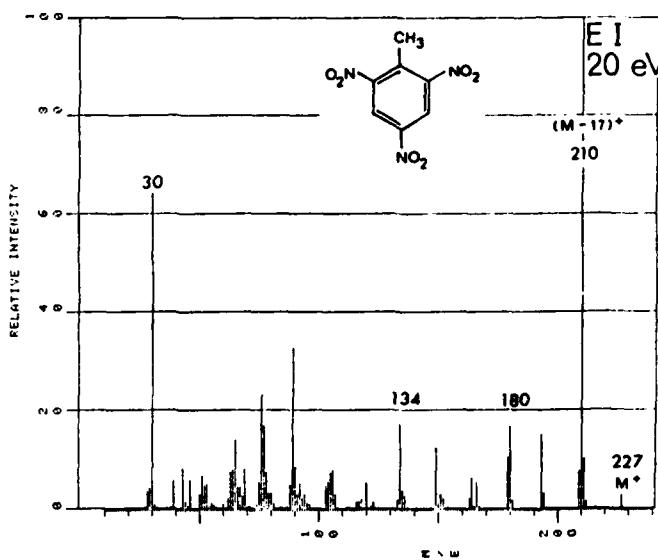
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 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



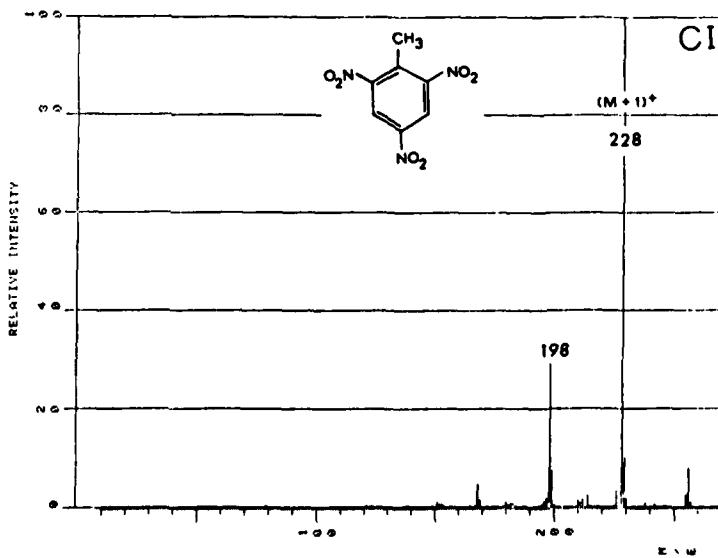
42
TNT : 2,4,6 - TNT



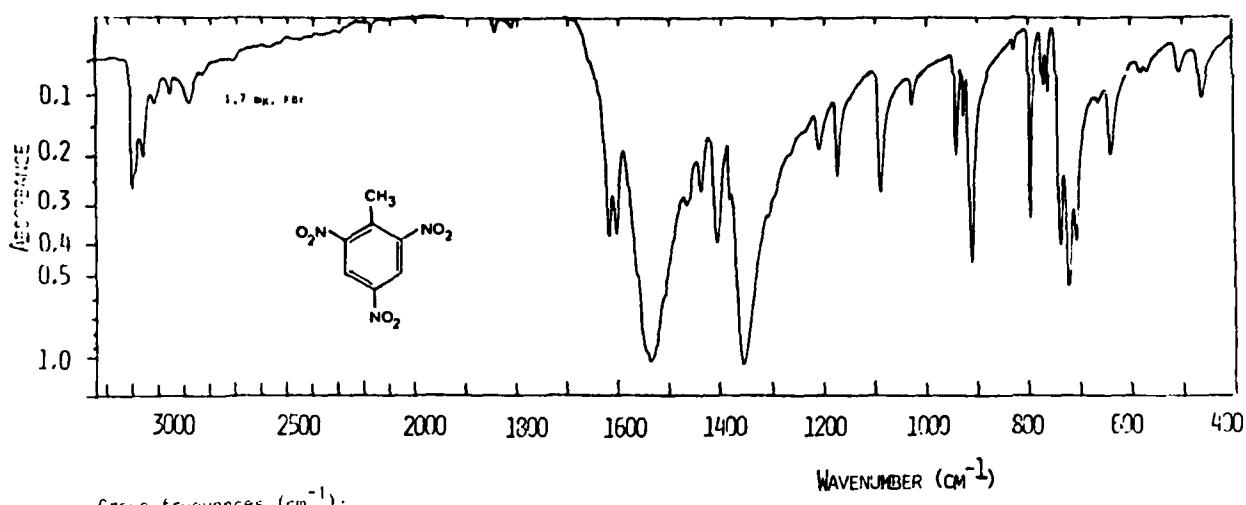
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Inlet: GC
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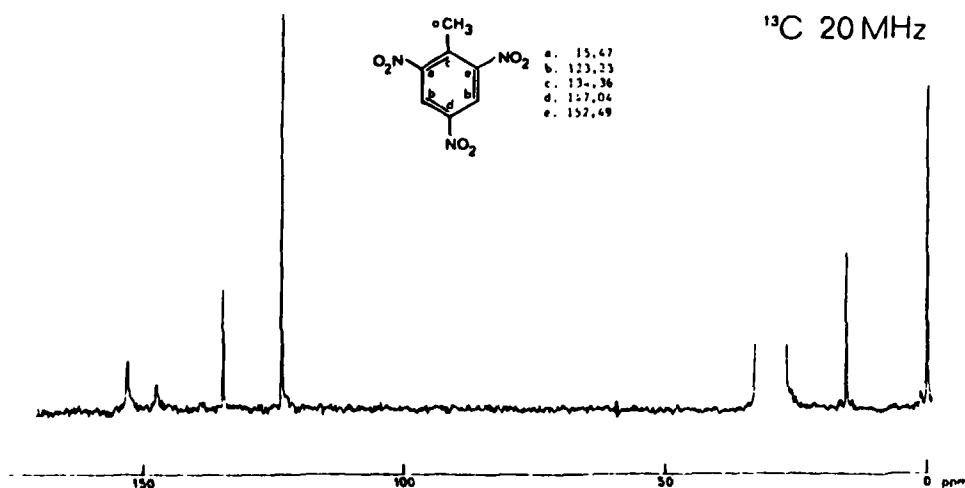
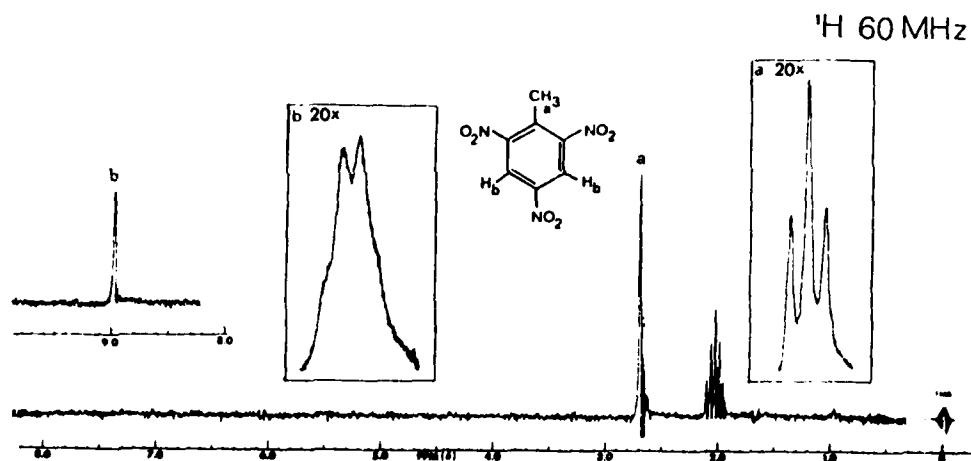


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Ion source: 150 °C

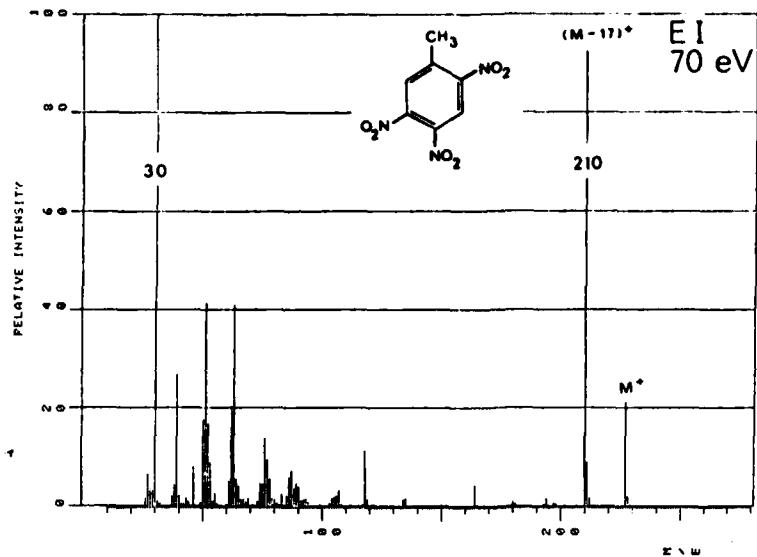


Group frequencies (cm^{-1}):

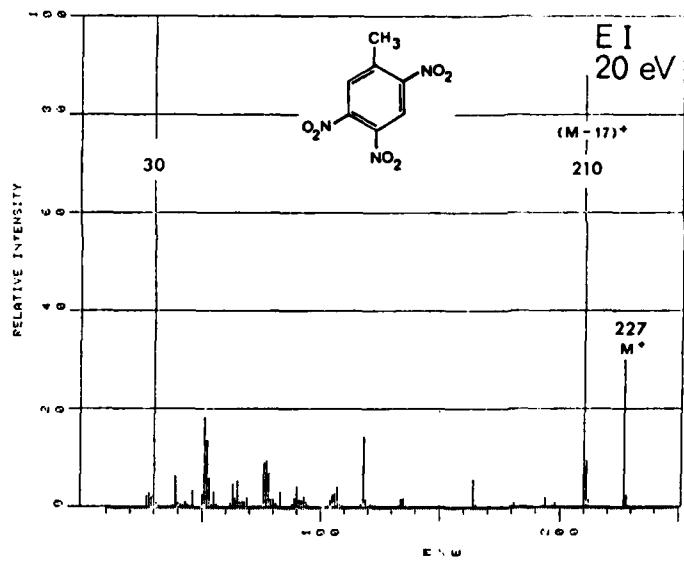
3104, 3060, 3021 C-H arom	1622, 1604 phenyl	1358 (C)-NO ₂ sym
2960 C-H aliph	1544, 1536 (C)-NO ₂ asym	1090, 910 Isol C-H arom



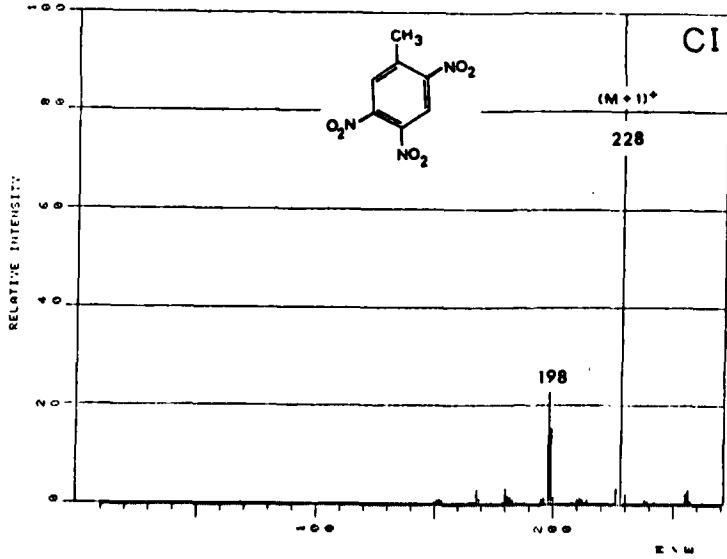
2,4,5-TNT



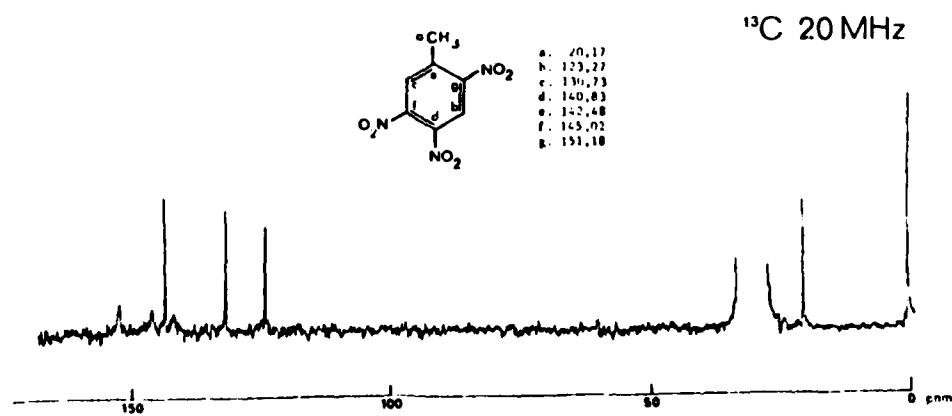
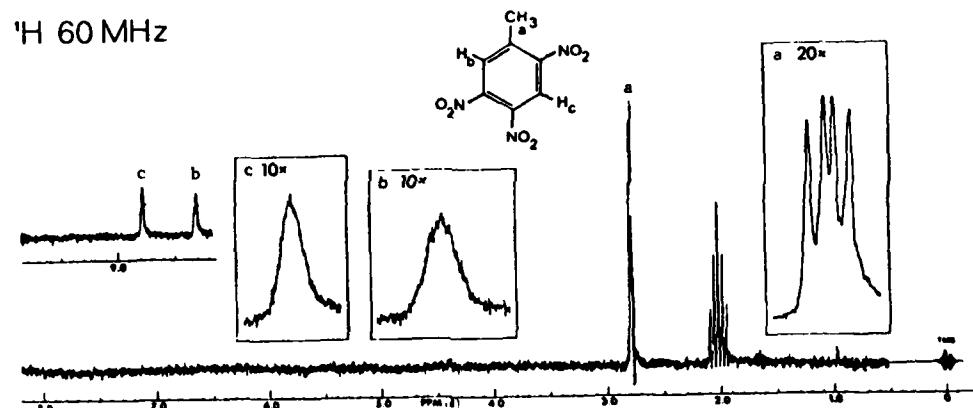
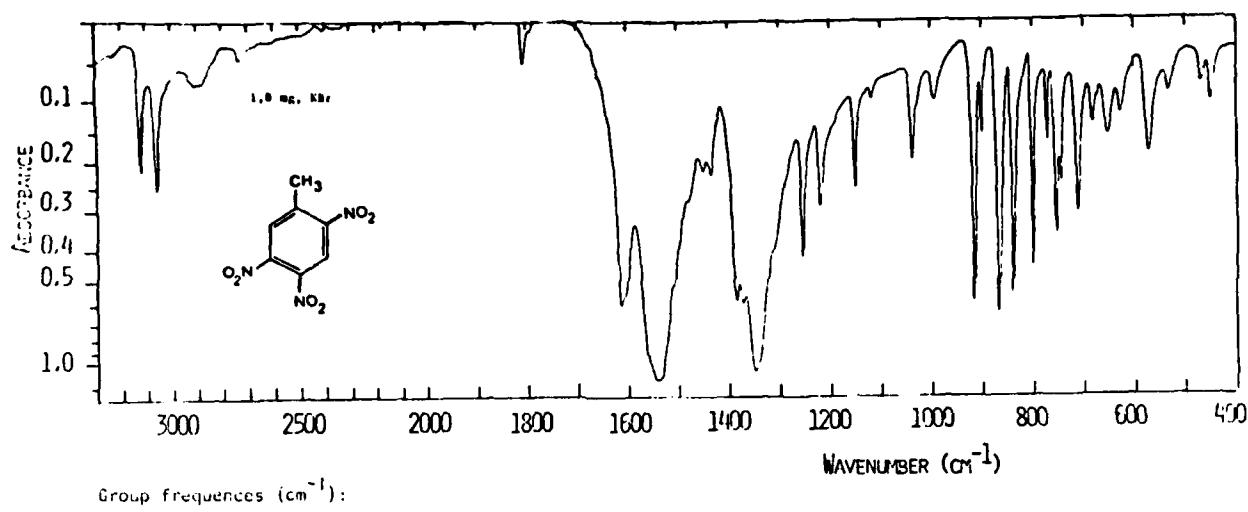
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Ion source: 150 °C



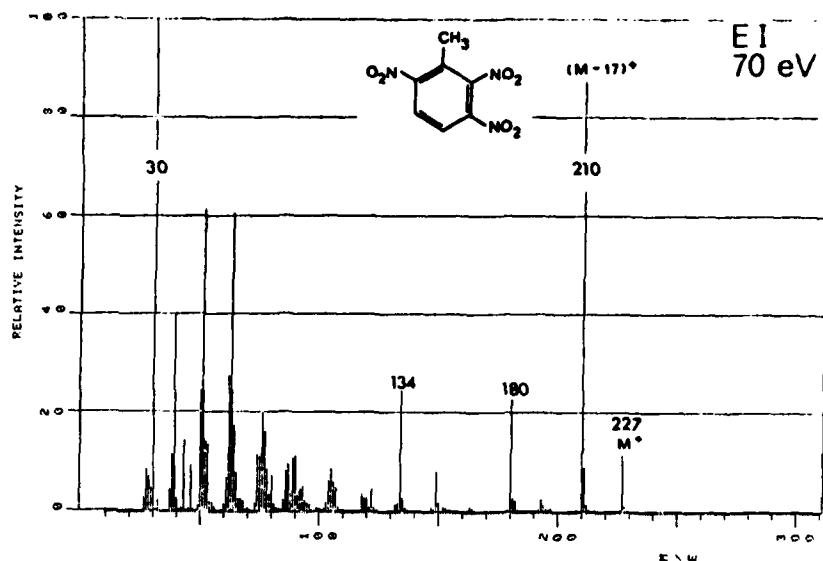
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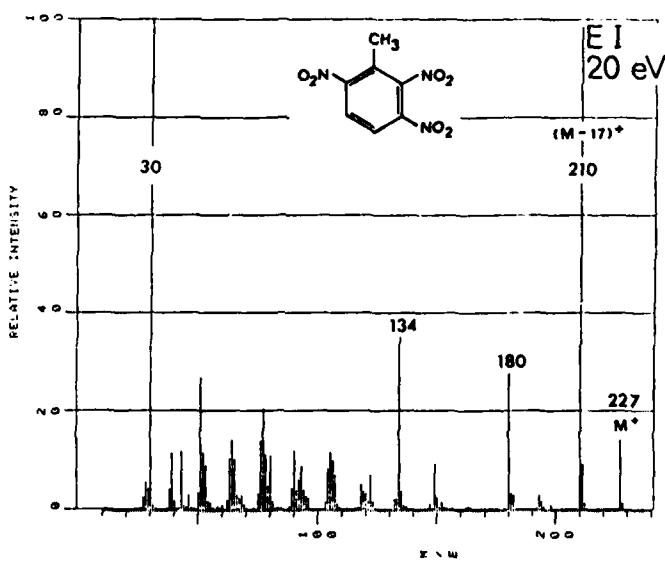
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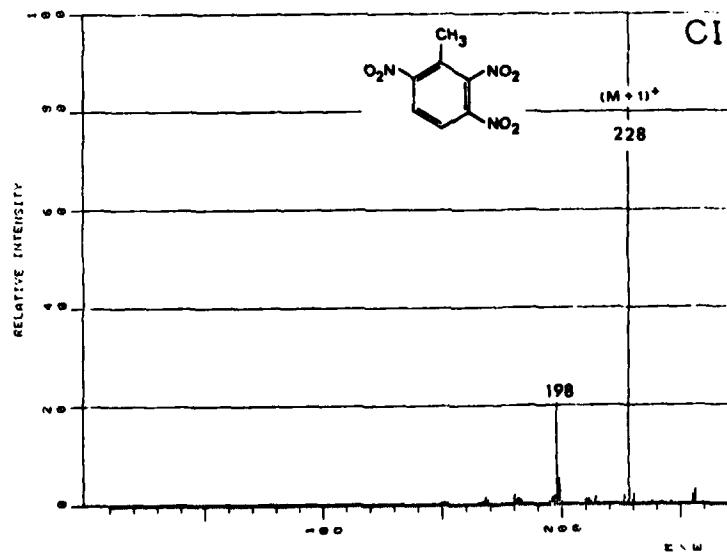
2,3,6 - TNT



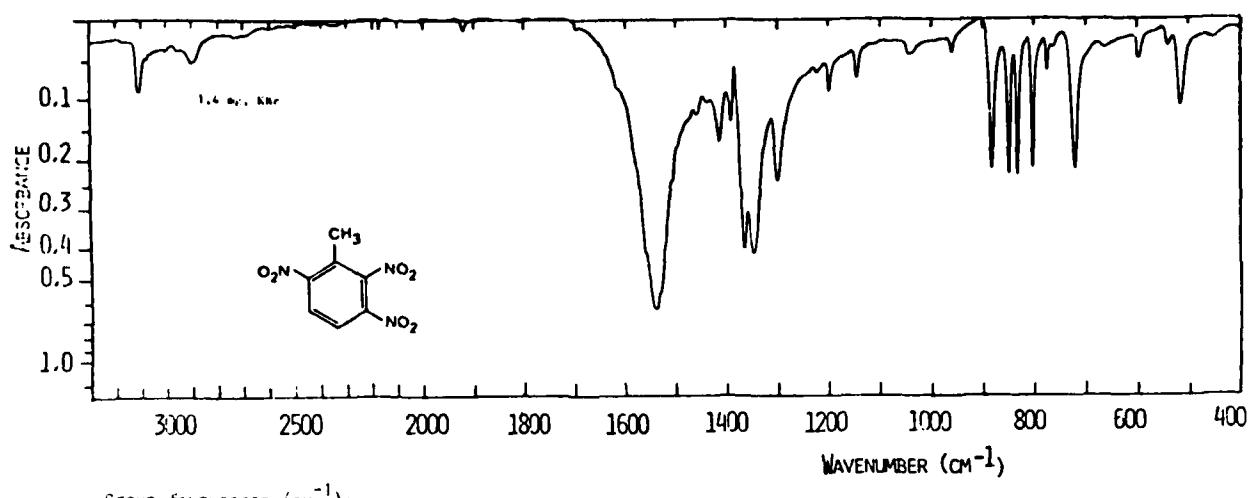
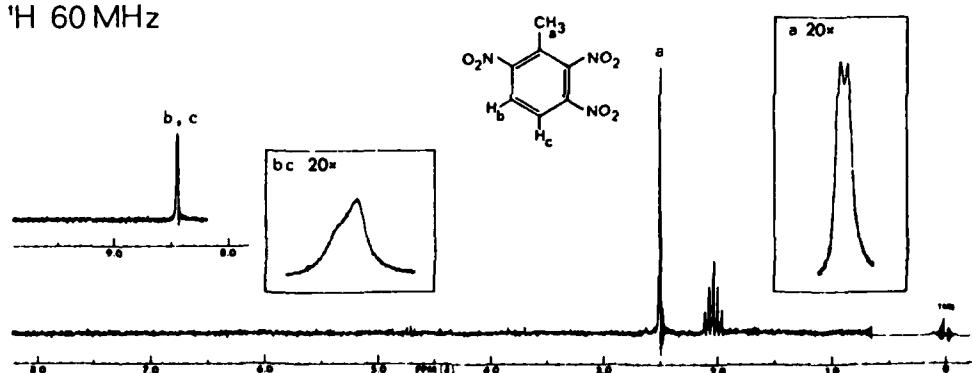
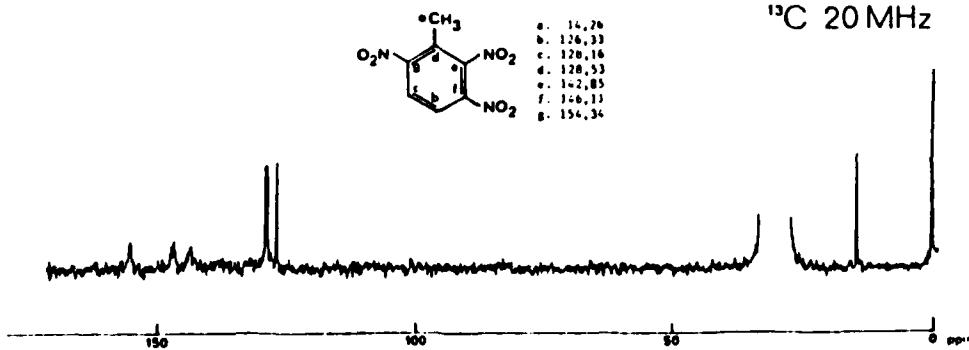
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Ion source: 150 °C



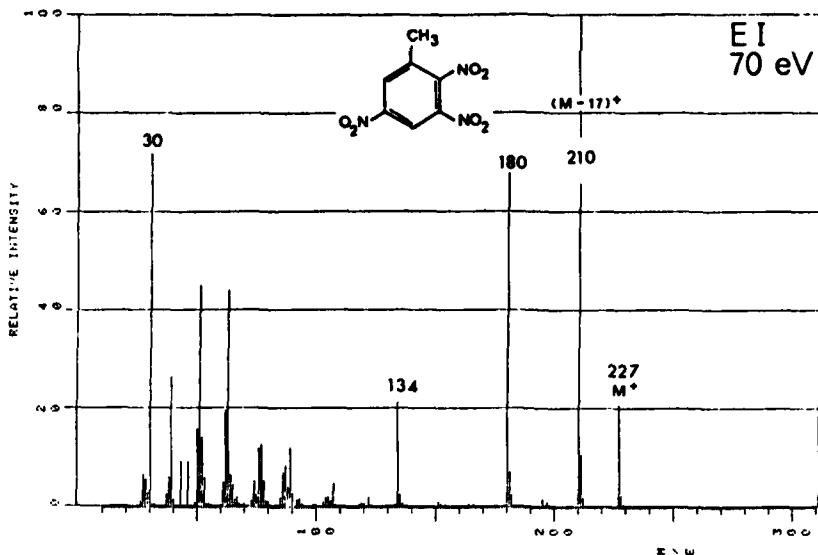
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Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



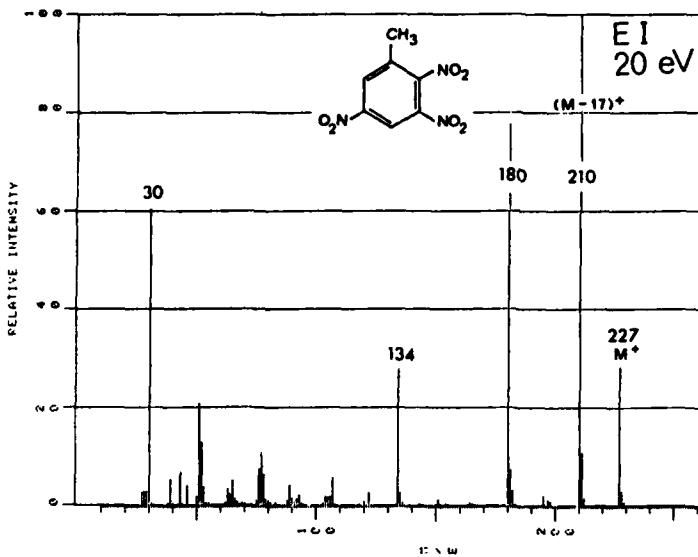
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Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C

¹H 60 MHz¹³C 20 MHz

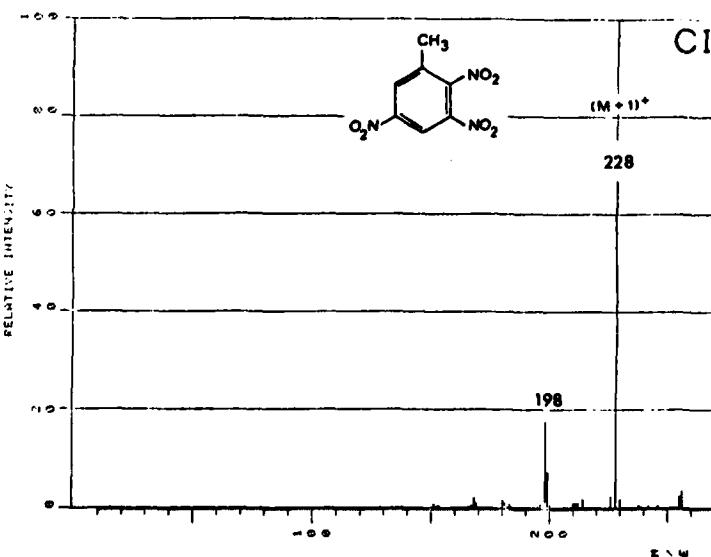
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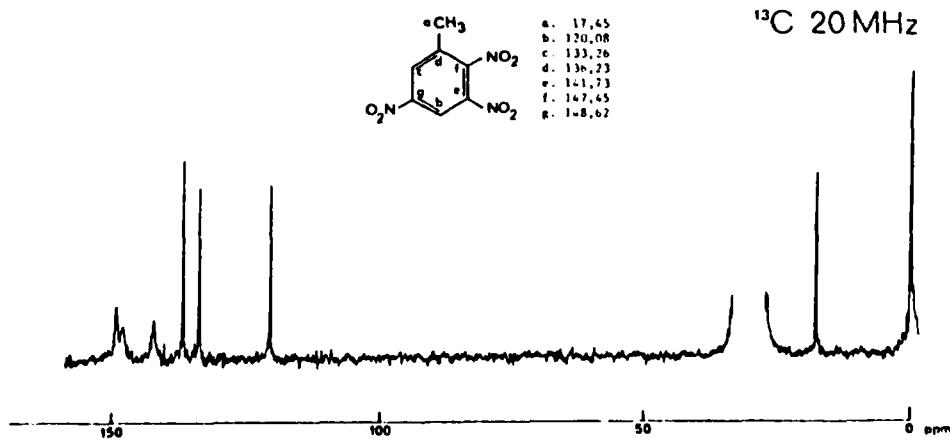
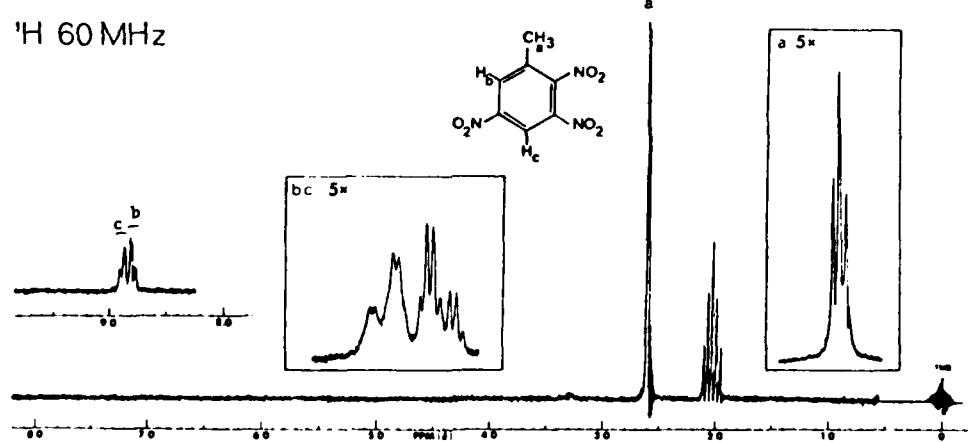
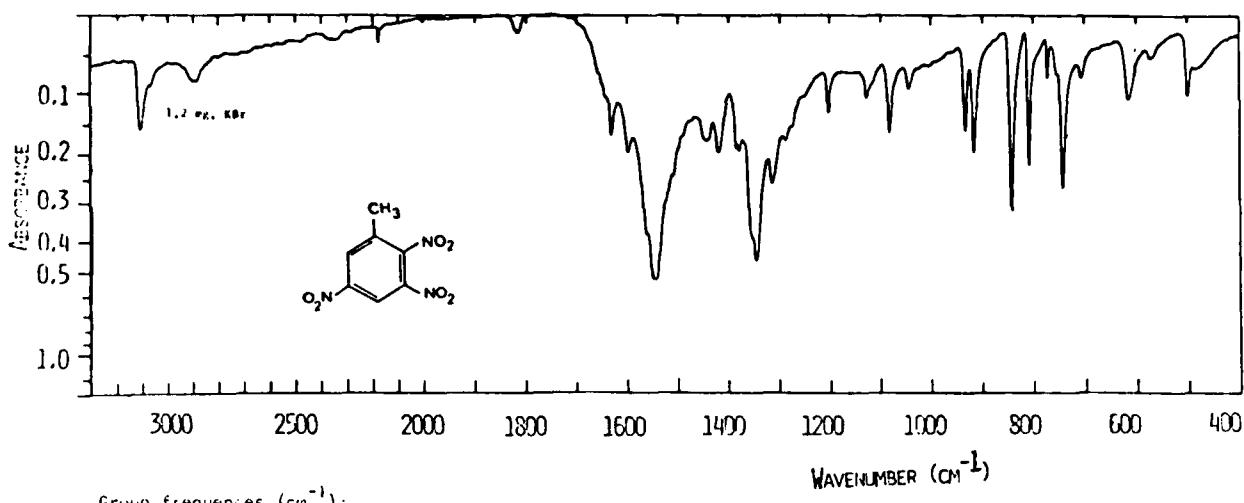
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 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



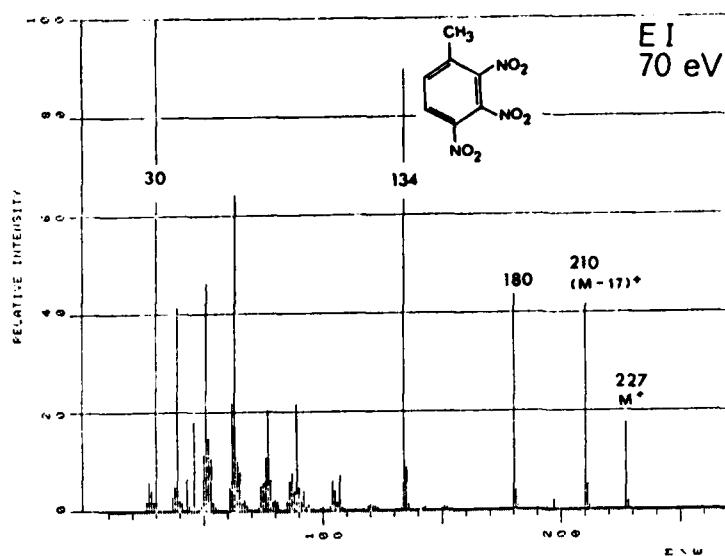
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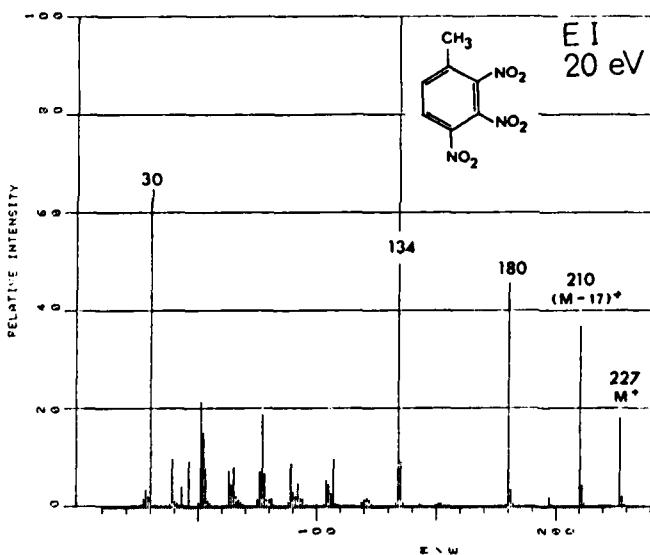
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 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



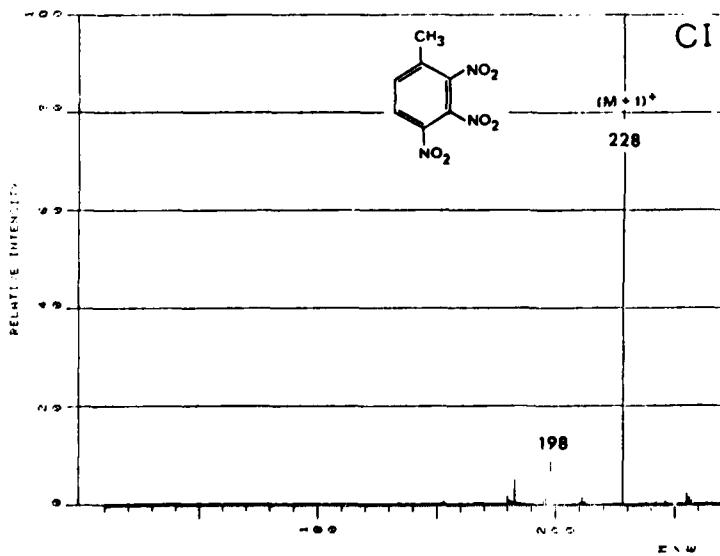
2,3,4-TNT



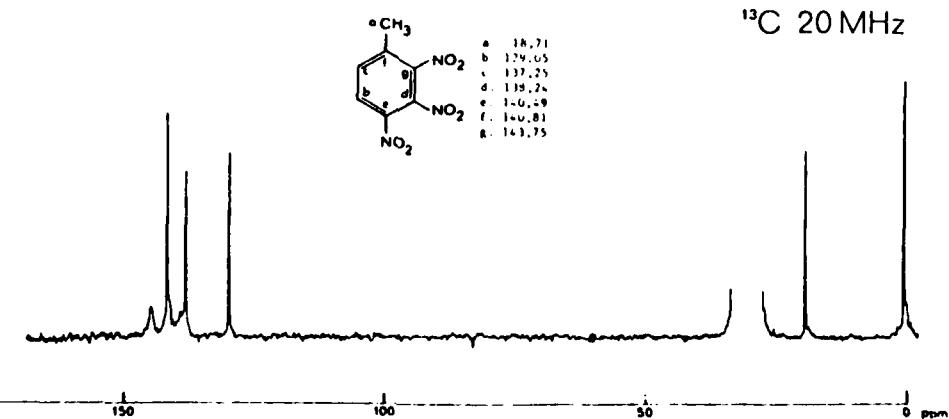
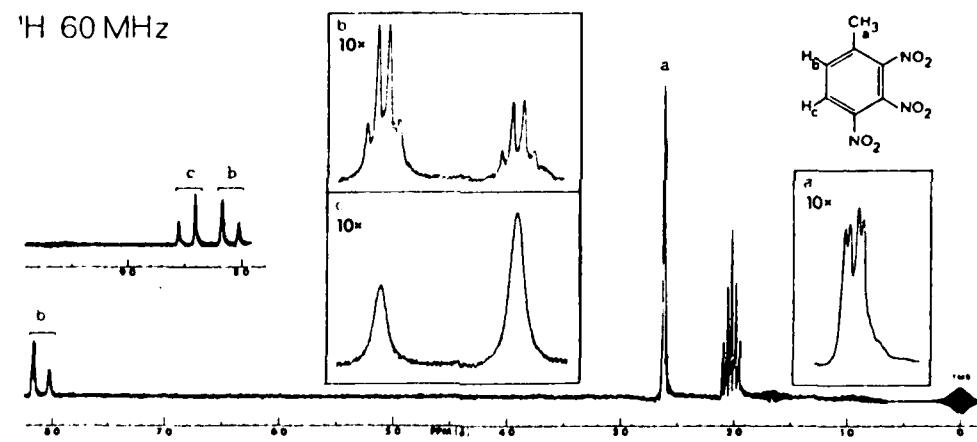
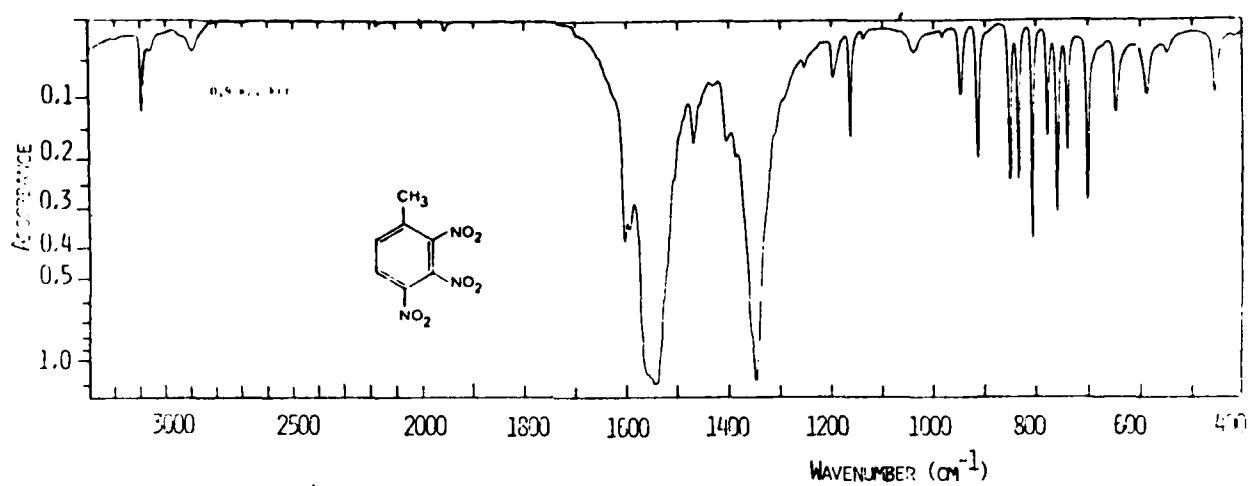
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



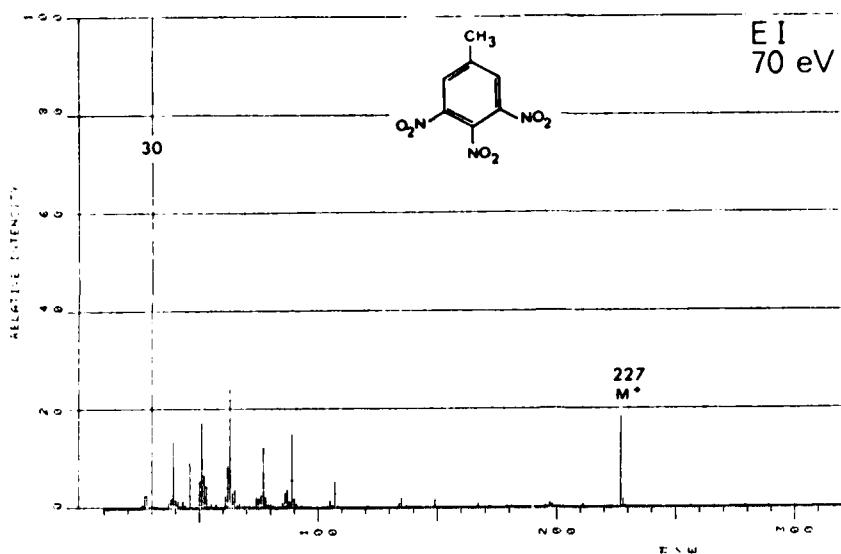
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



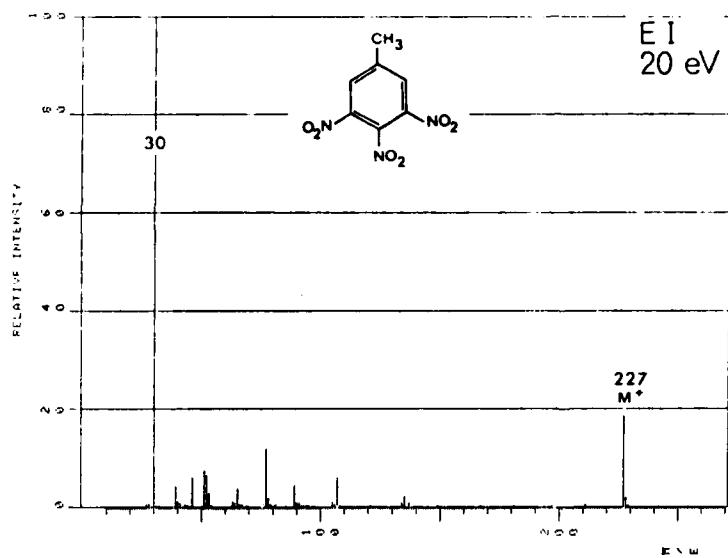
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



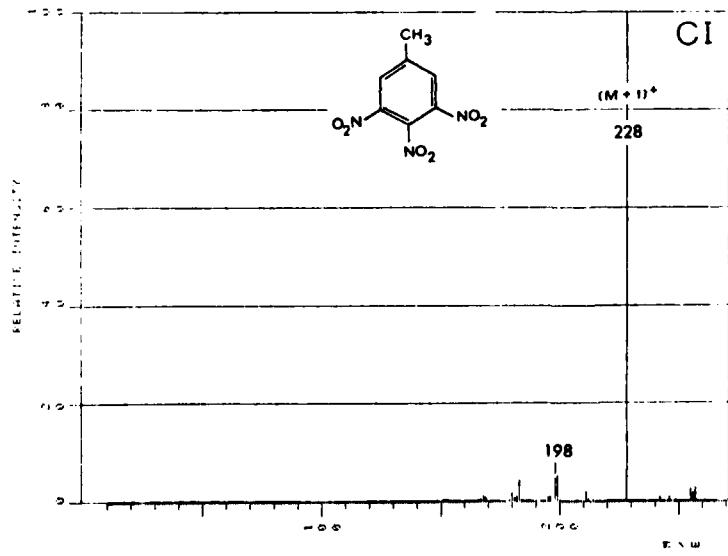
3,4,5 - TNT



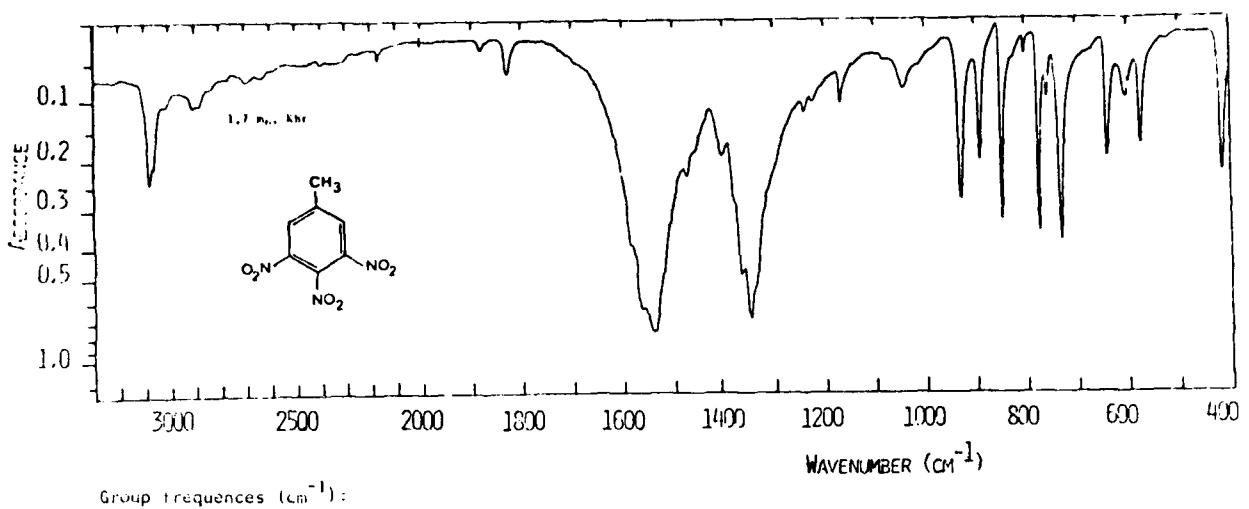
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



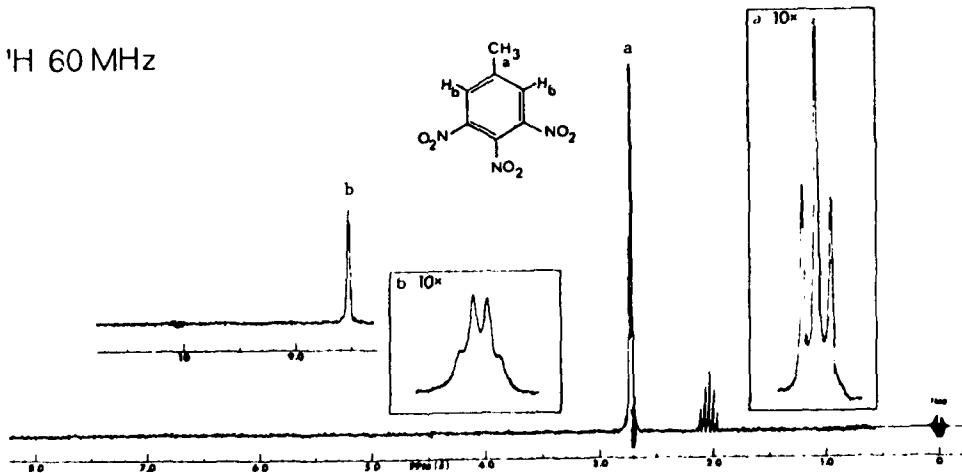
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 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



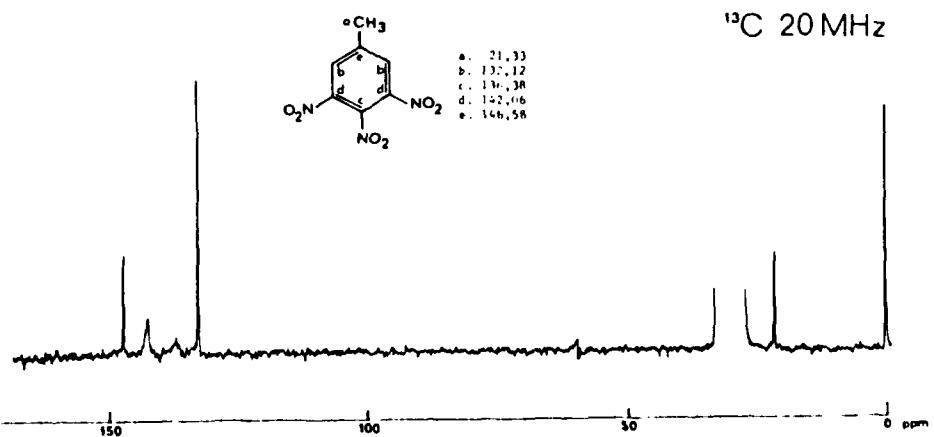
Group frequencies (cm⁻¹):

3082, 3060 C-H arom 1370, 1350, 1342 (C)-NO₂ sym
1563, 1542 (C)-NO₂ asym 929 Isol C-H arom

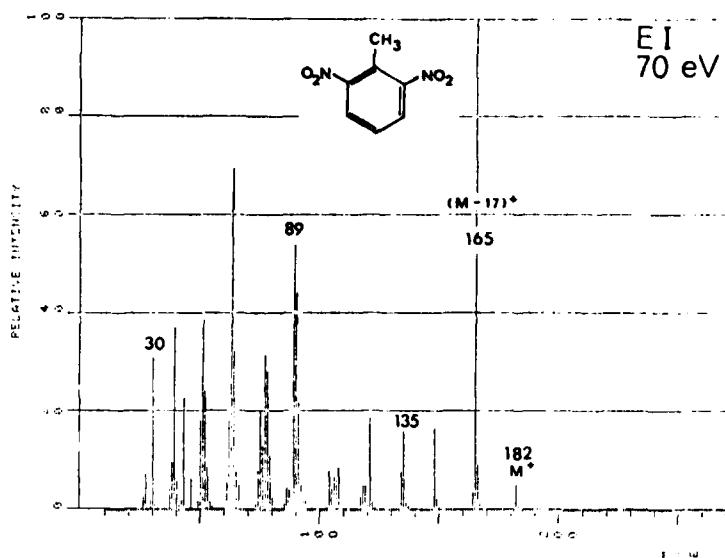
¹H 60 MHz



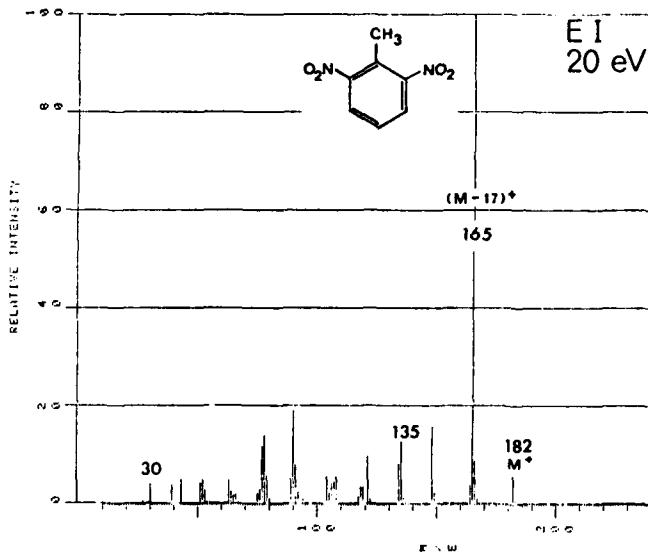
¹³C 20 MHz



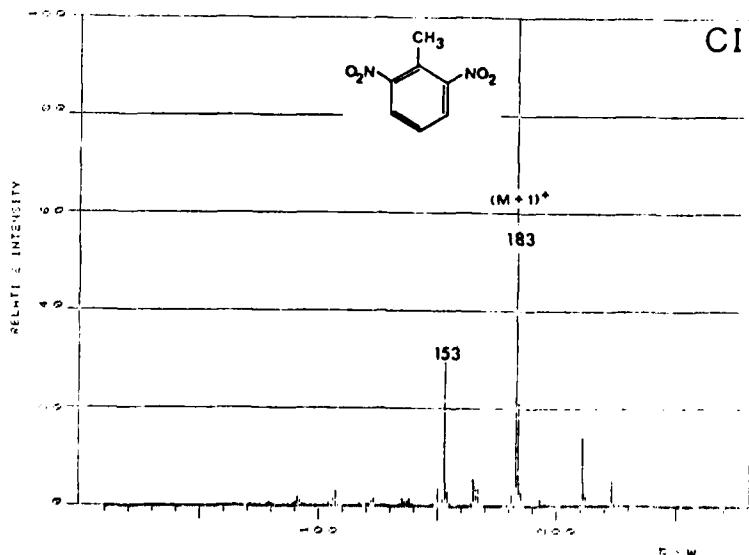
2,6-DNT



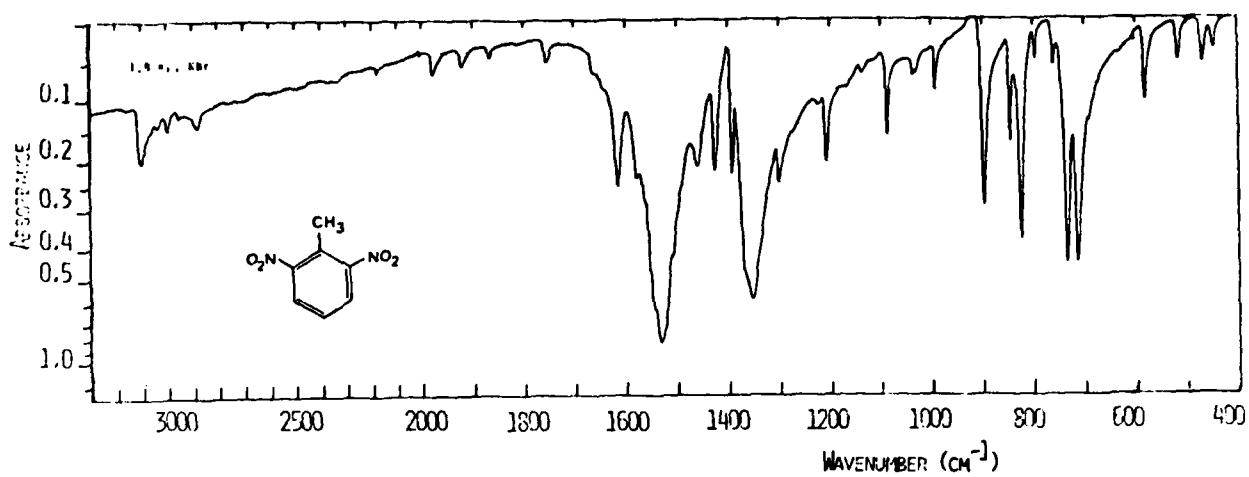
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

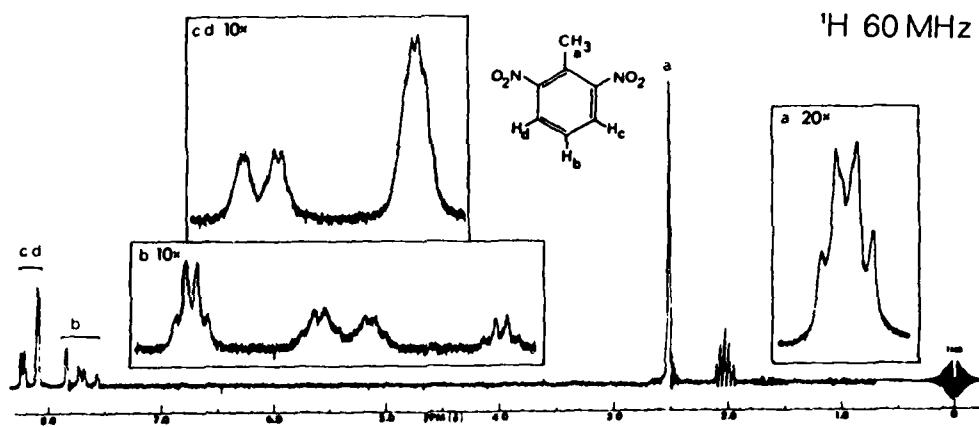


Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

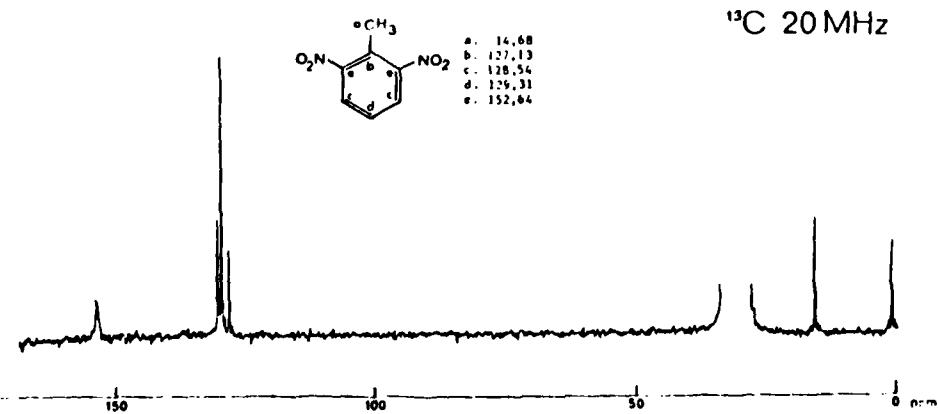


Group Frequencies (cm^{-1}):

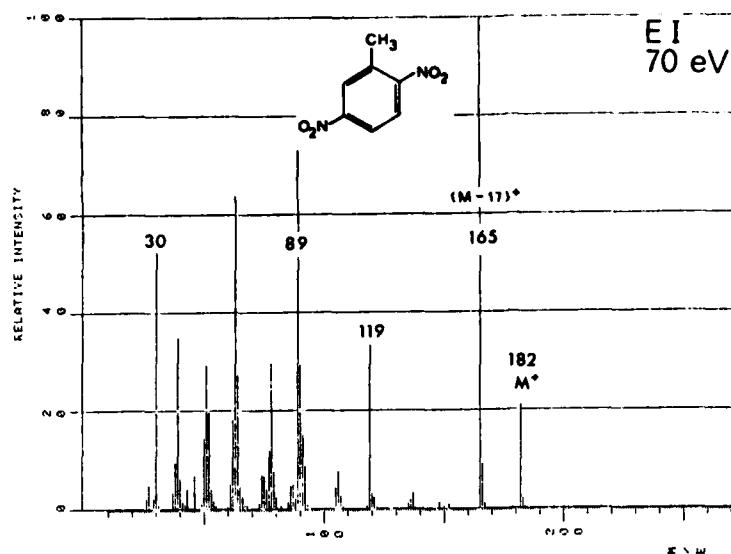
3108, 3031, 3038	C-H arom	1614	phenyl	1365, 1352	$(\text{C})-\text{NO}_2$ sym
3000, 2957	C-H aliph	1542, 1530, 1527	$(\text{C})-\text{NO}_2$ asym		



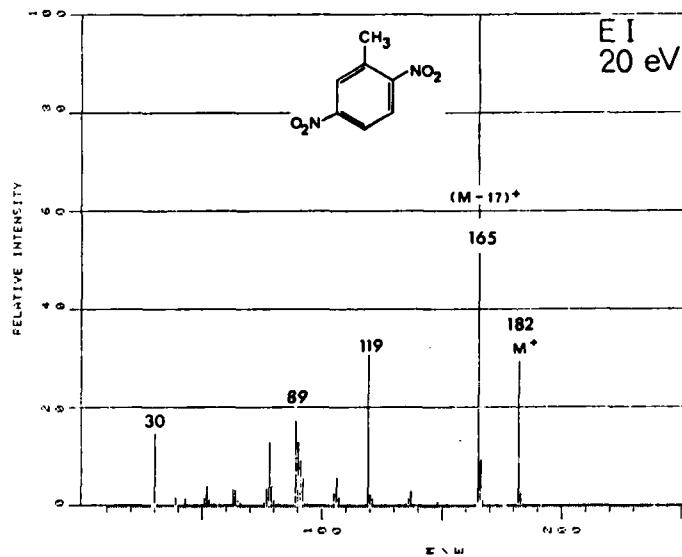
^{13}C 20 MHz



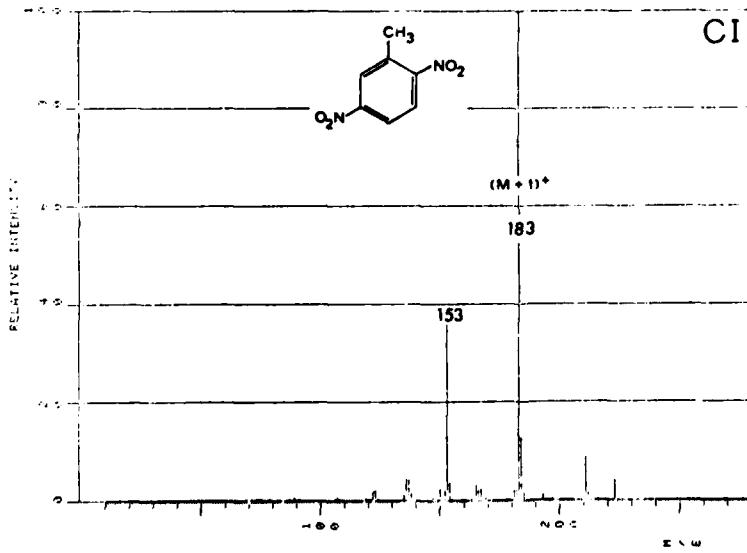
2,5 - DNT



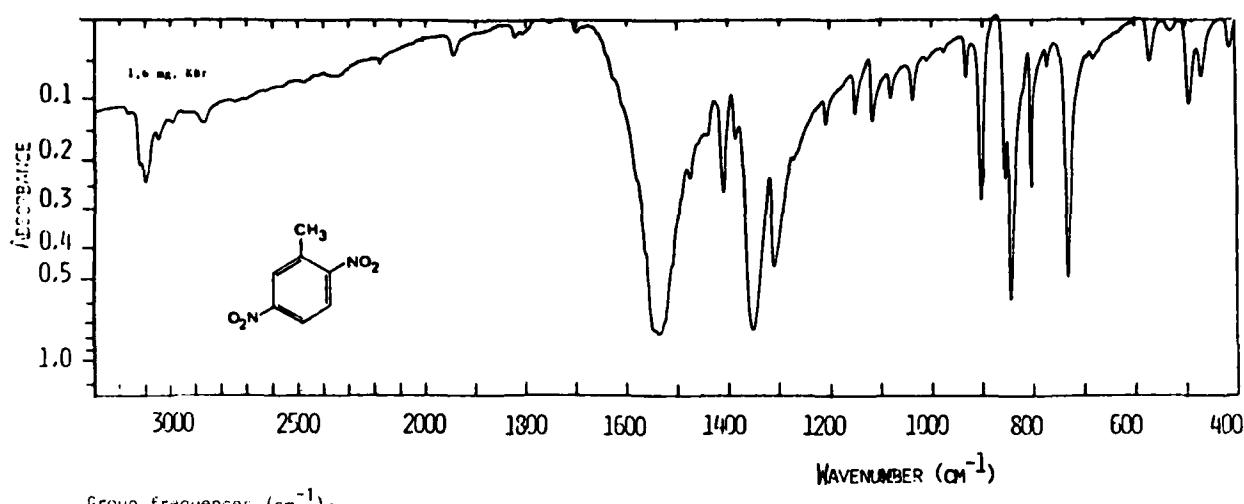
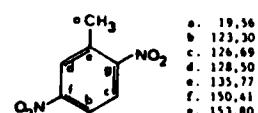
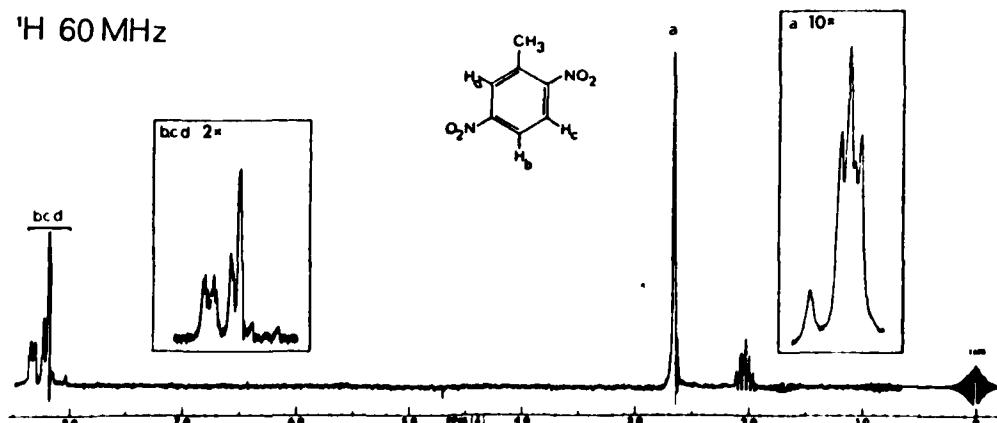
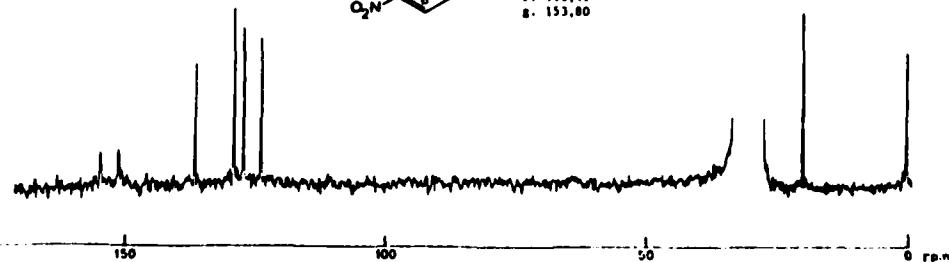
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



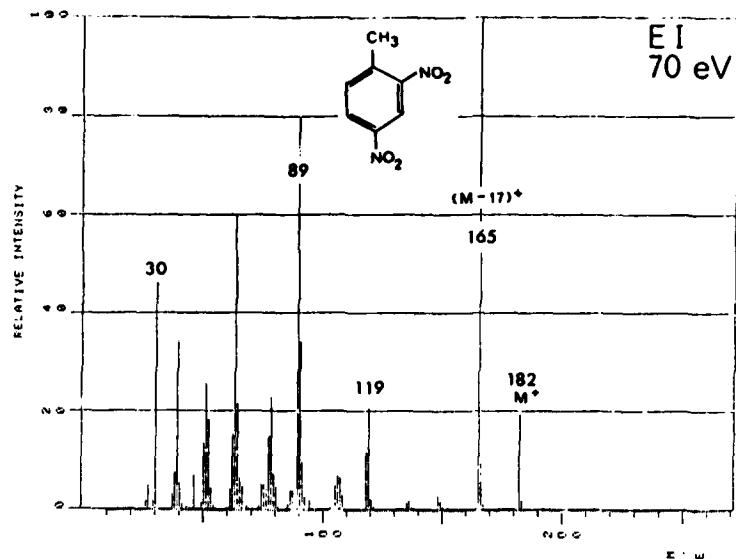
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



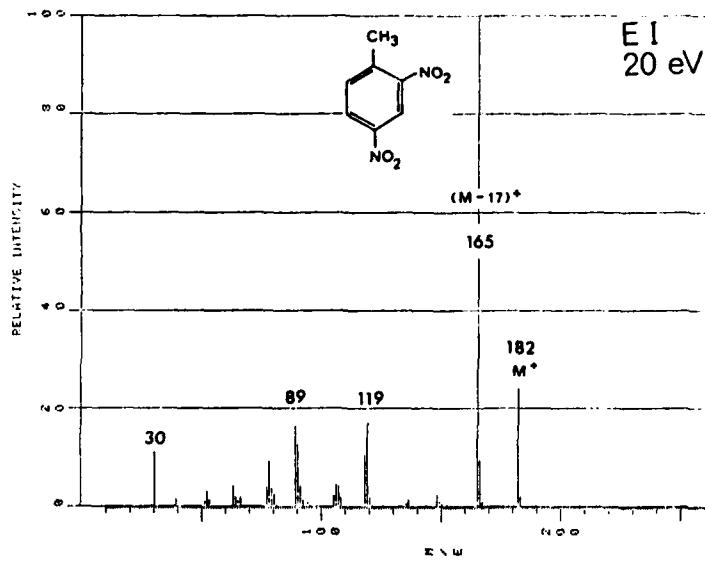
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

¹H 60 MHz¹³C 20 MHz

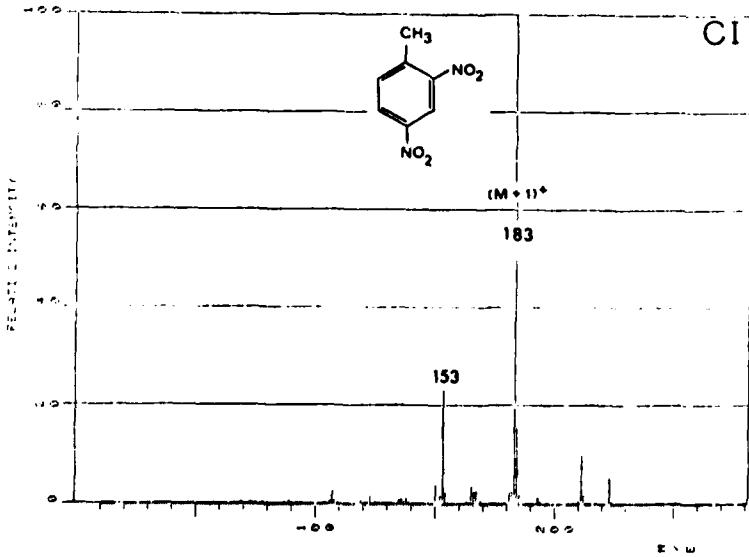
2,4 - DNT

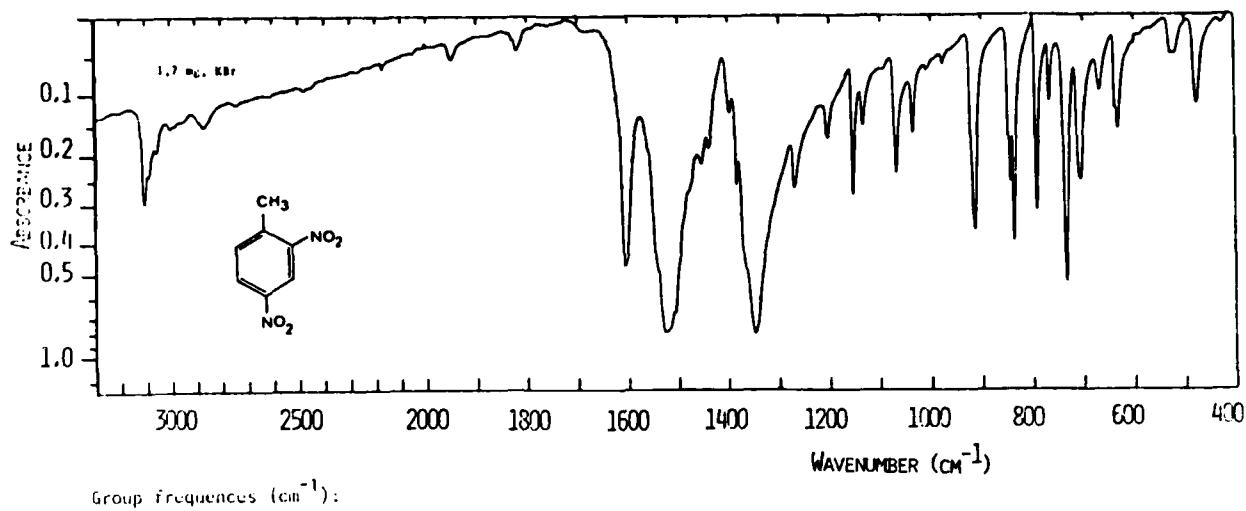
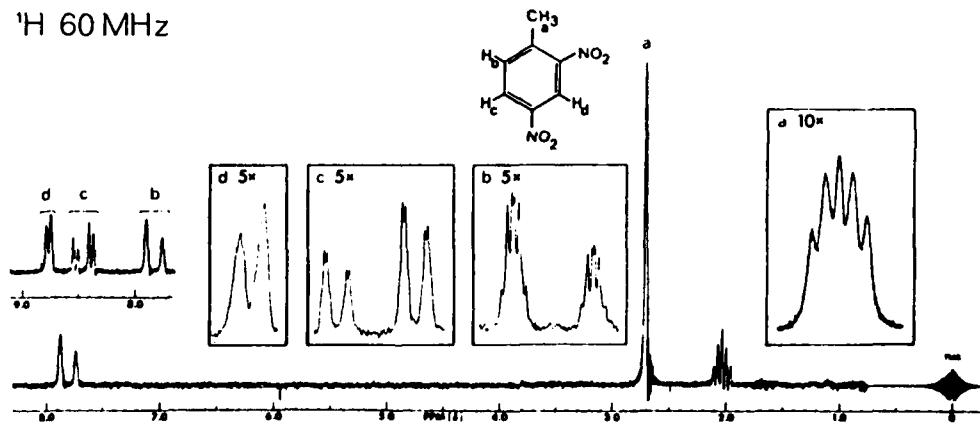
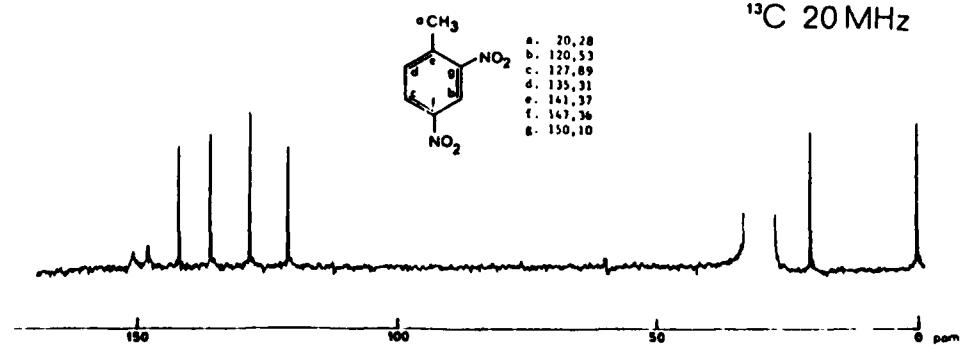


Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

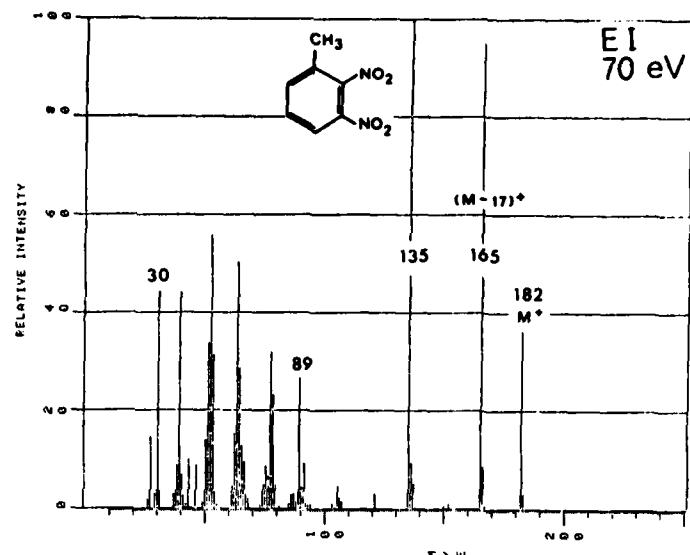


Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

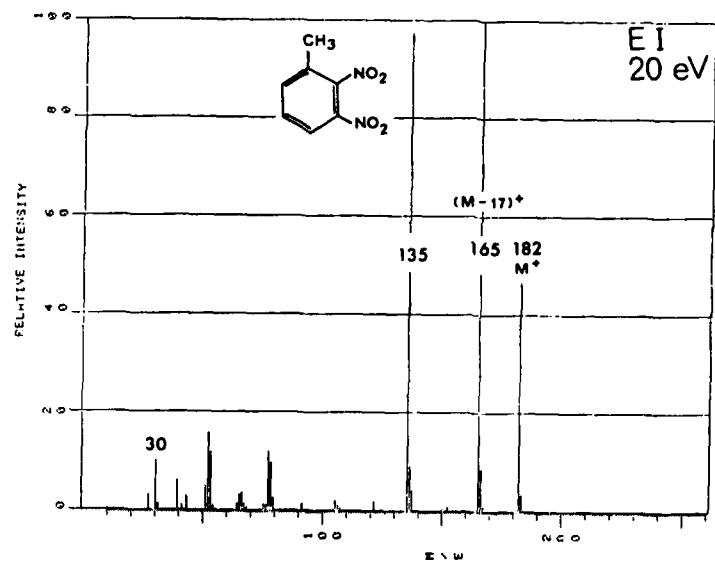


¹H 60 MHz¹³C 20 MHz

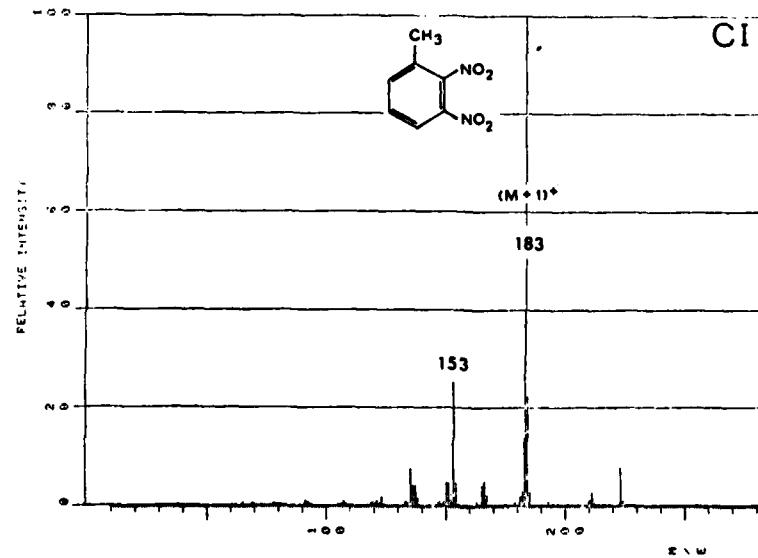
60
2,3-DNT



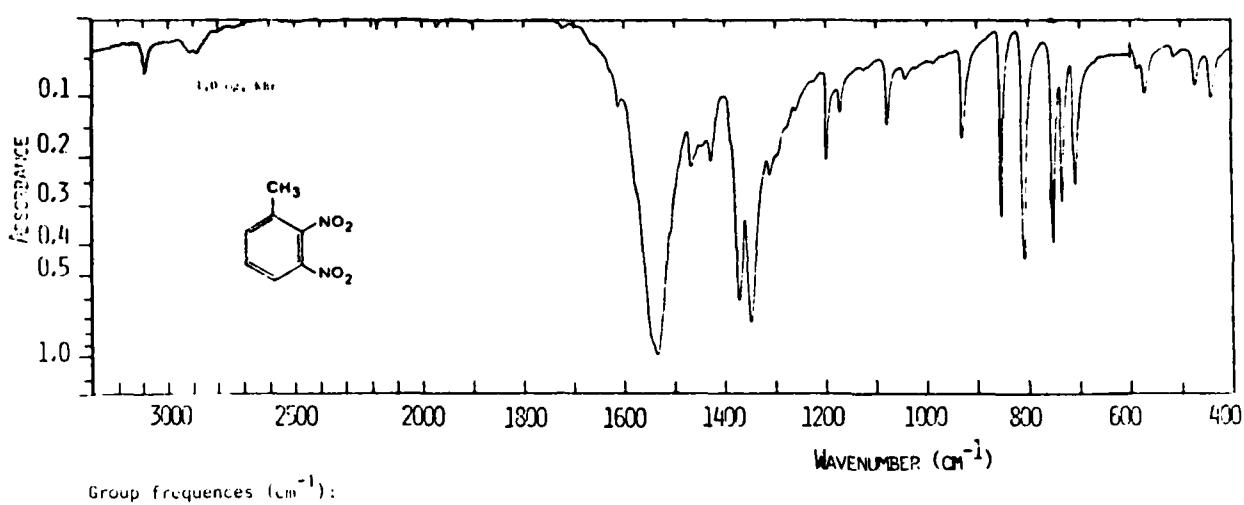
Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



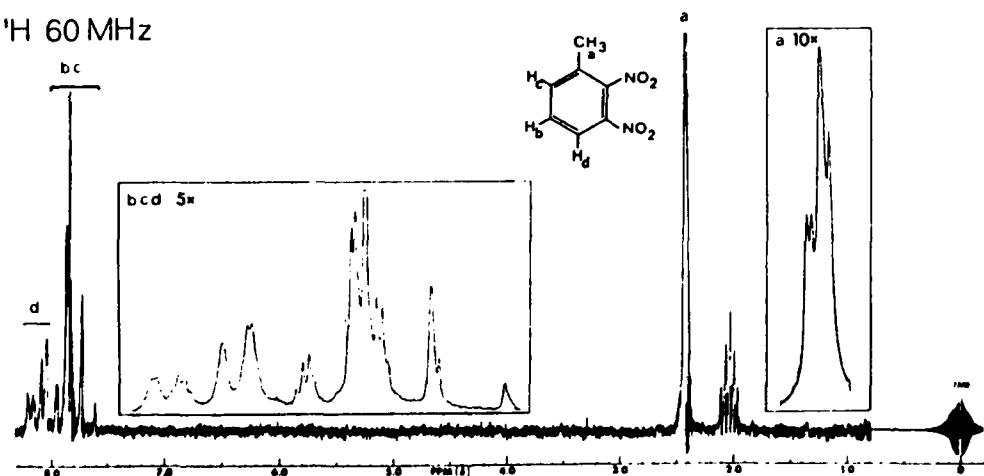
Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



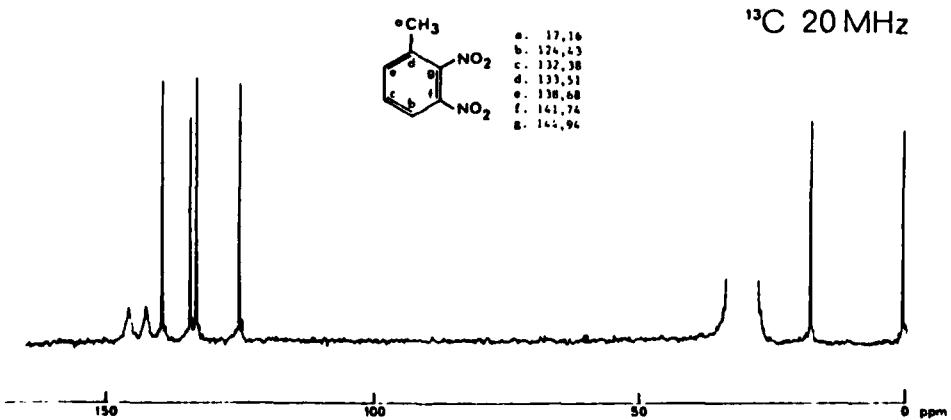
Group frequencies (cm^{-1}):

3105 C-H arom 1547, 1535 (C)-NO₂ asym
 1611 phenyl 1370, 1350 (C)-NO₂ sym

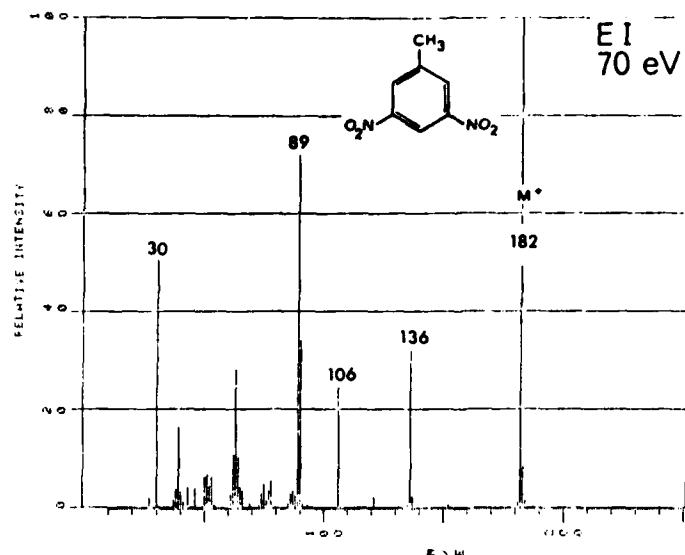
¹H 60 MHz



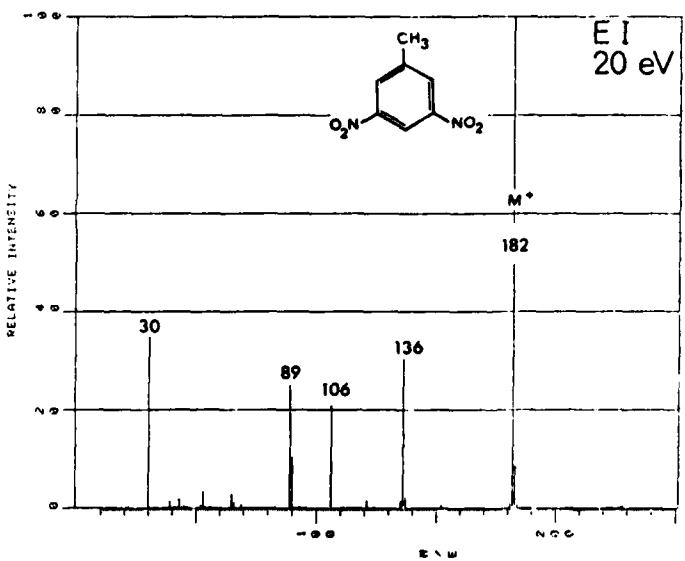
¹³C 20 MHz



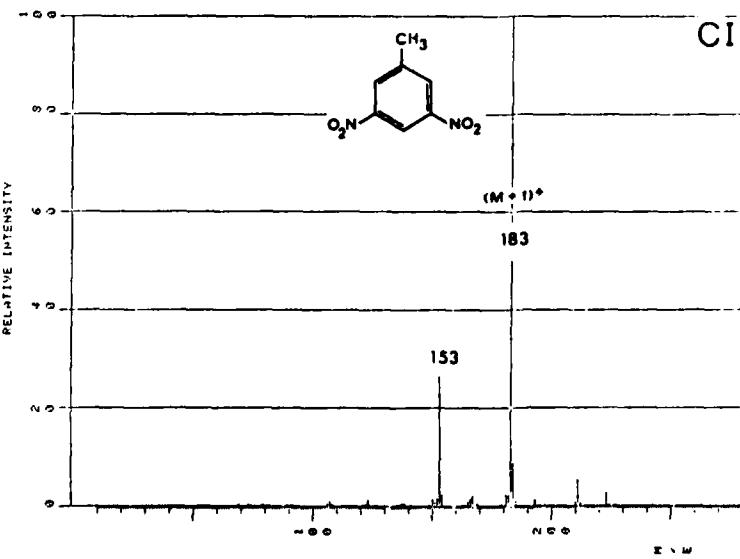
3,5-DNT



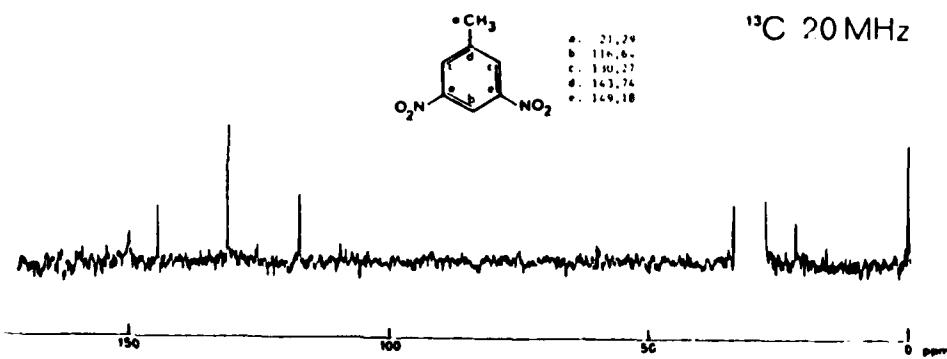
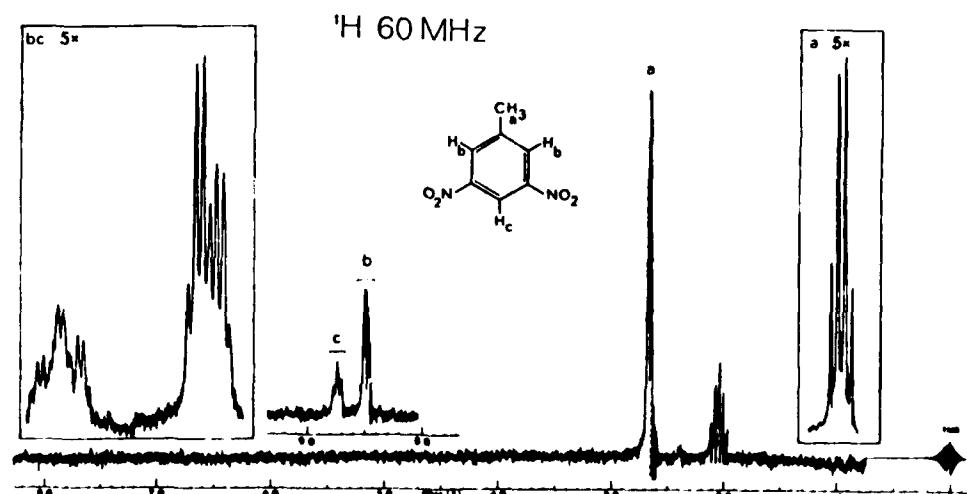
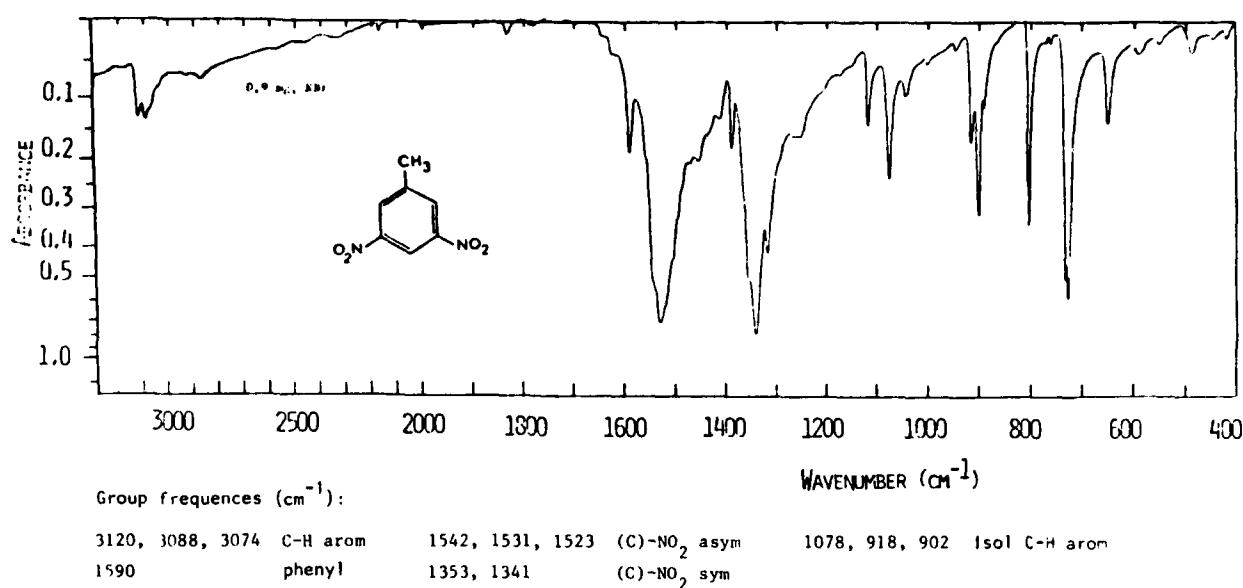
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



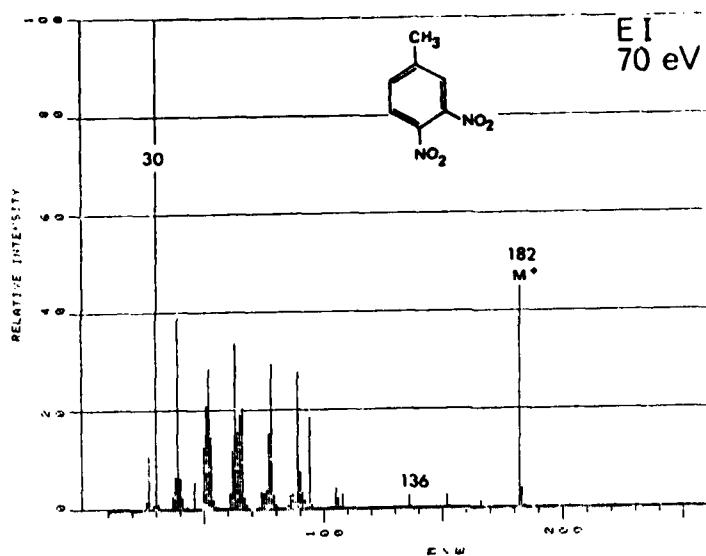
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



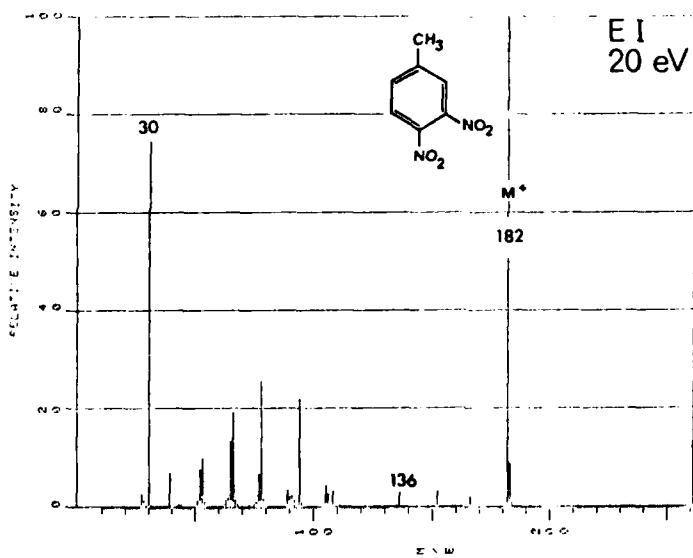
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



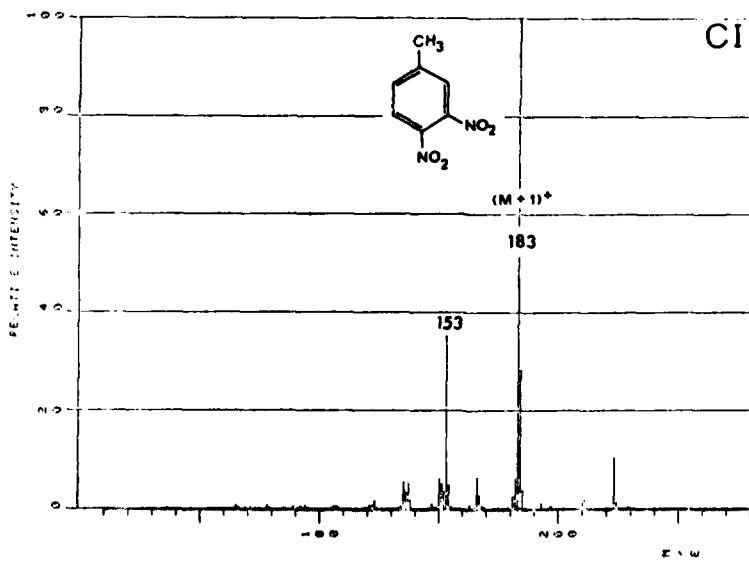
3,4 - DNT



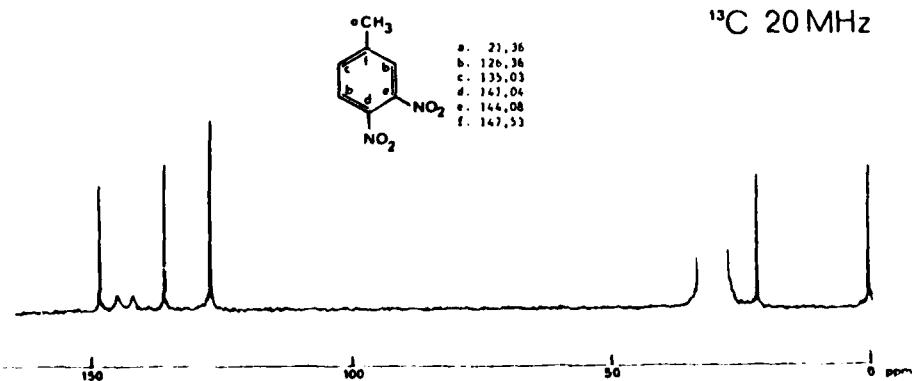
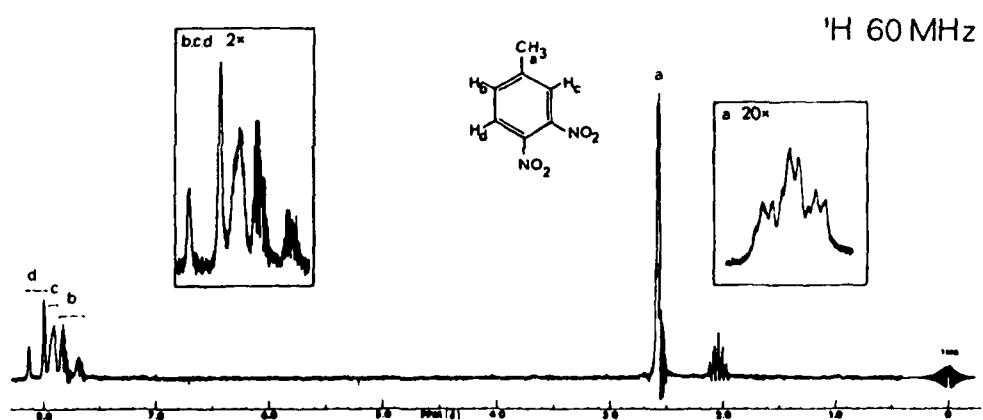
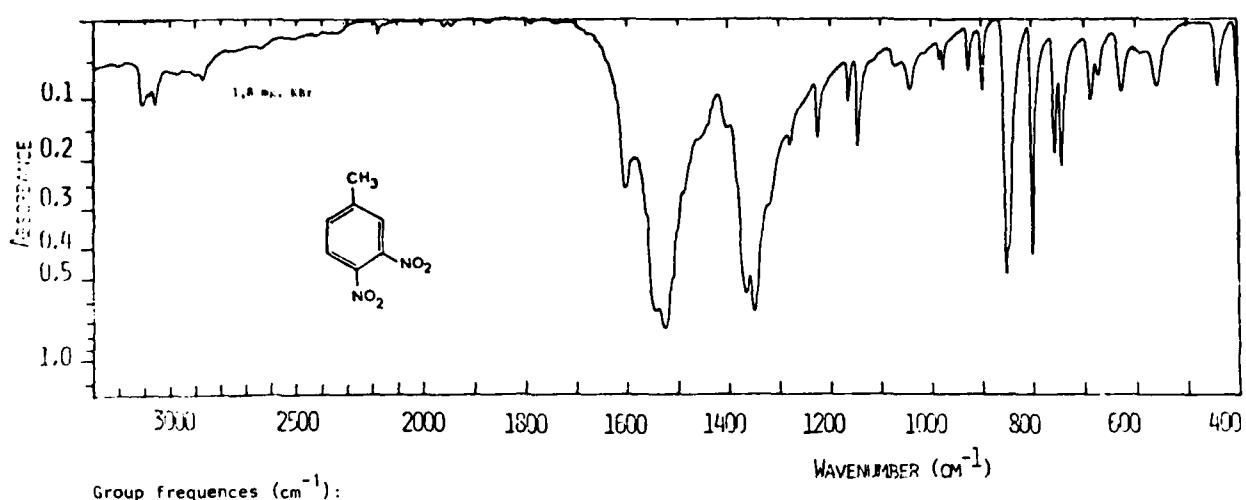
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



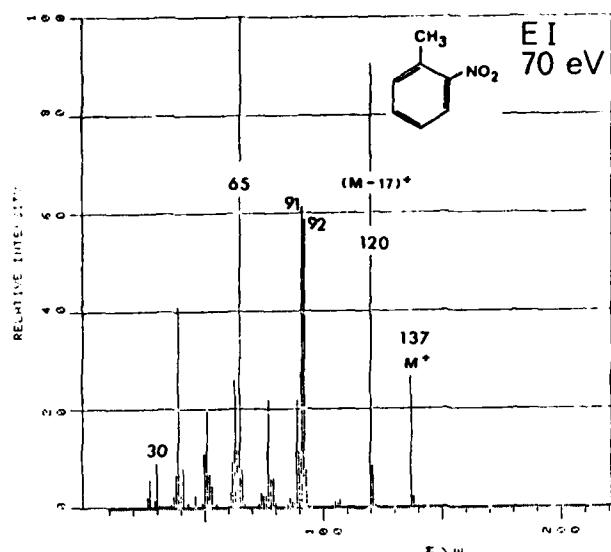
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



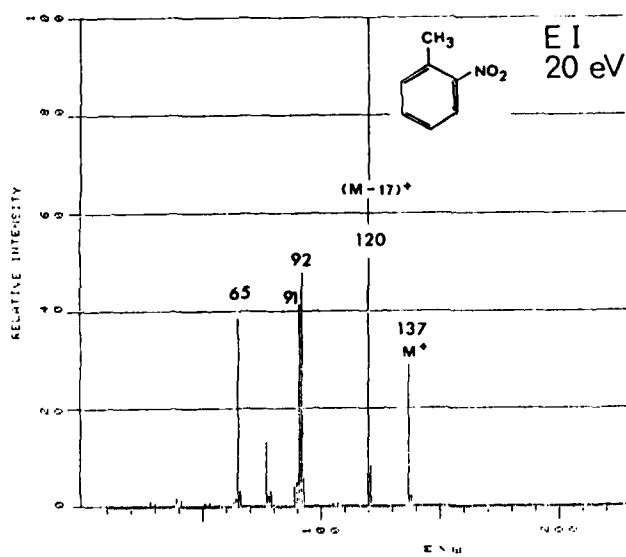
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



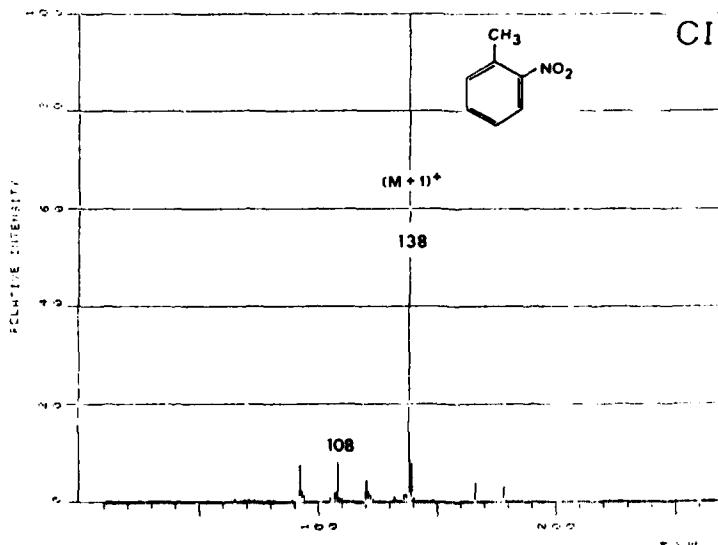
2-MNT



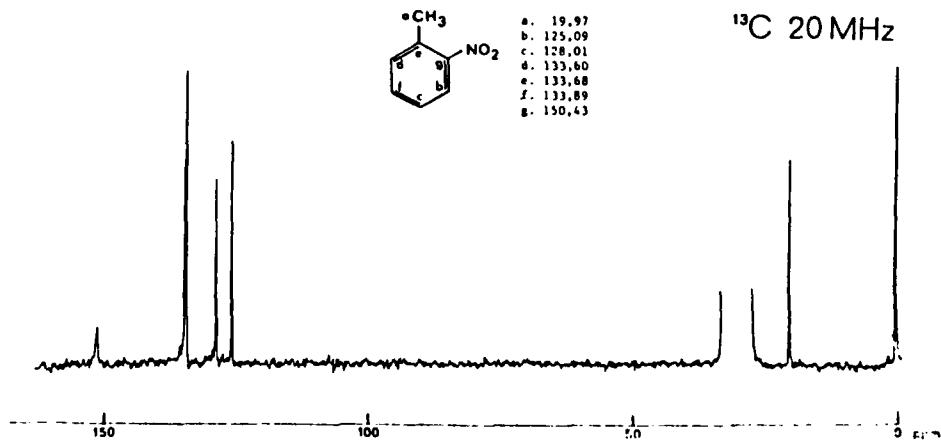
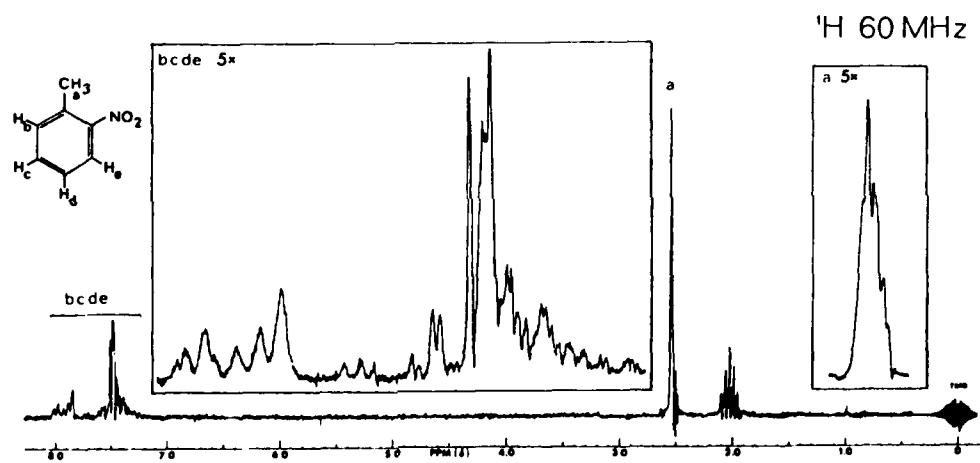
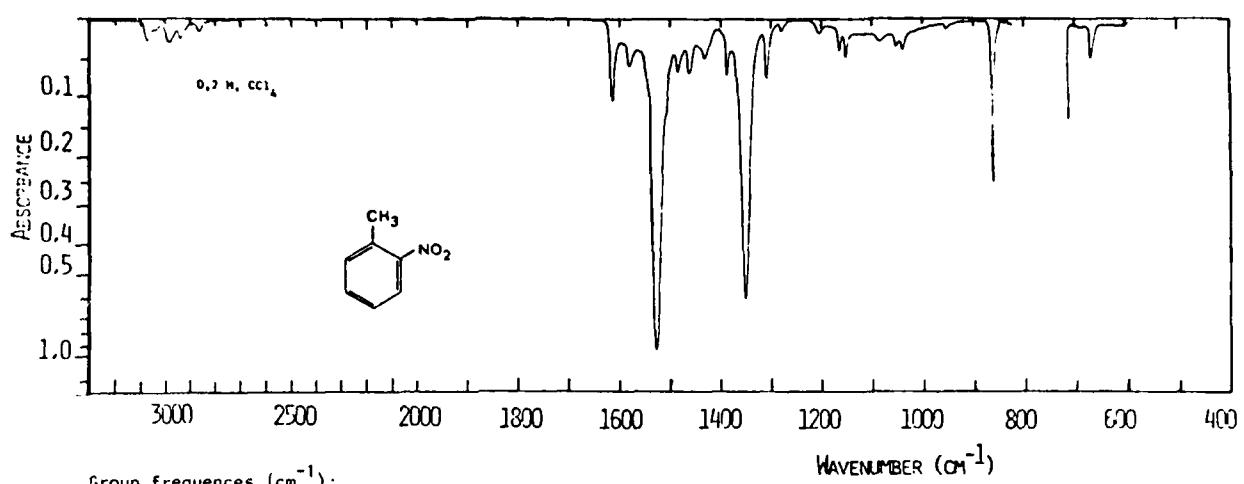
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 Ion source: 150 °C



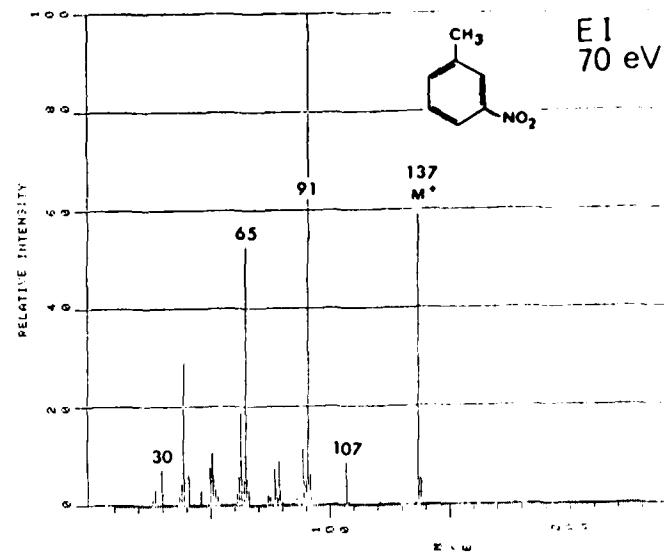
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



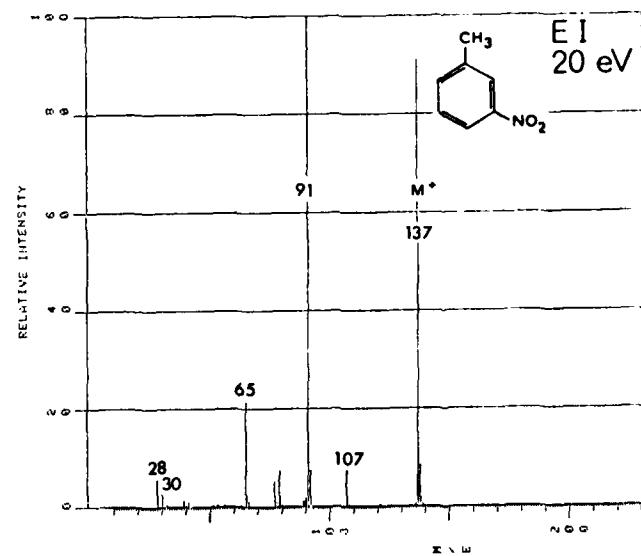
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



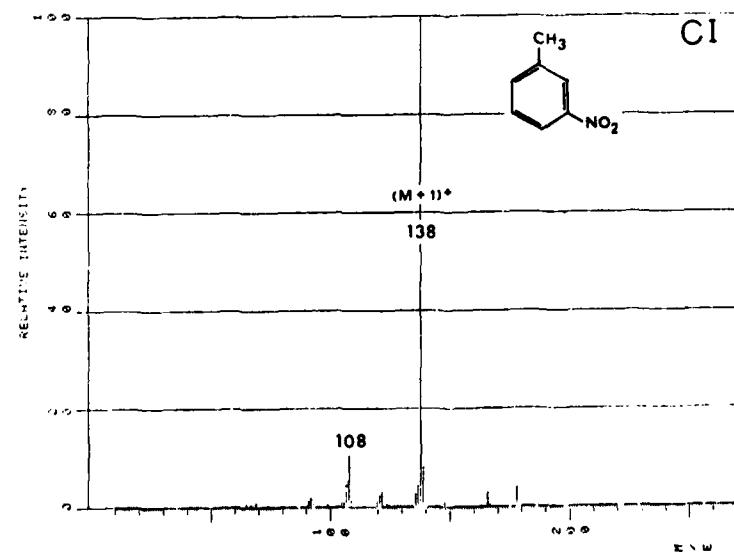
3-MNT



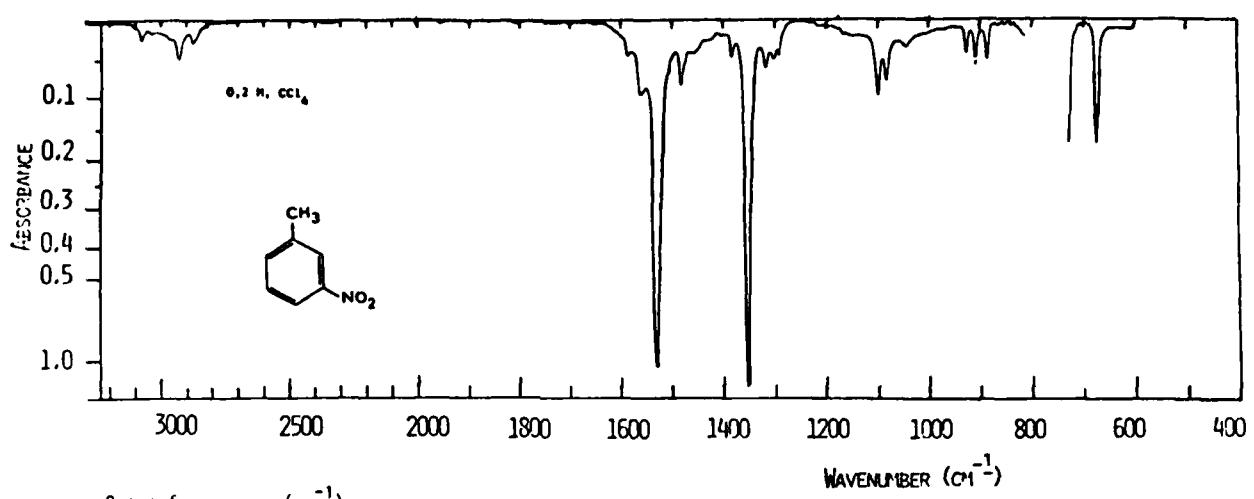
Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

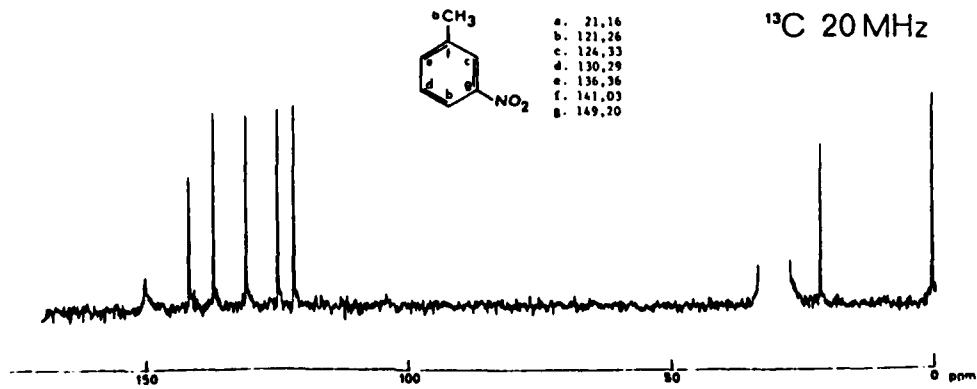
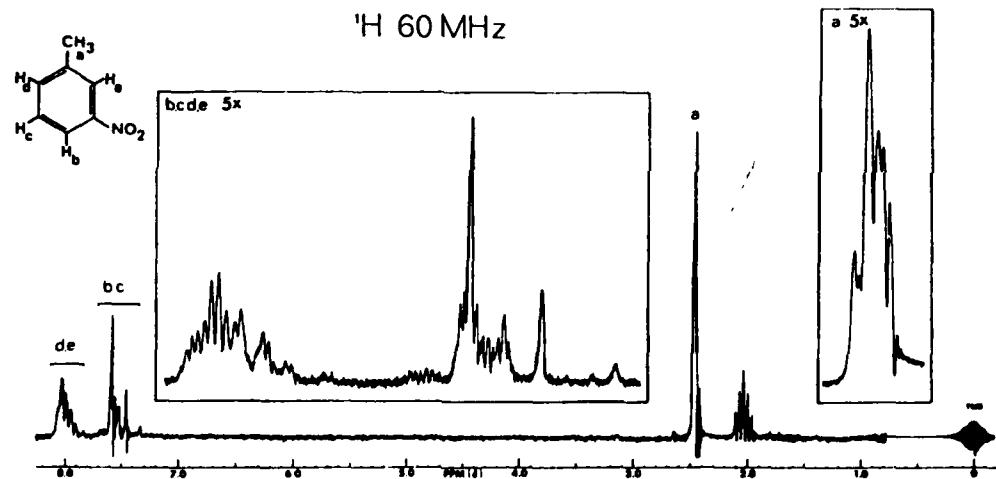


Inlet: GC
 Column: OV 225
 Ion source: 150 °C

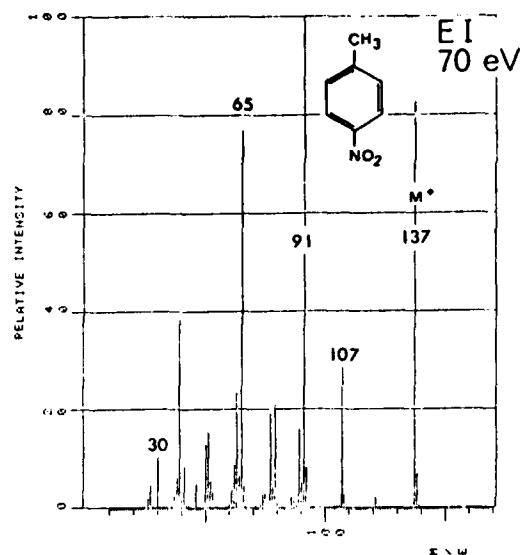


Group frequencies (cm^{-1}):

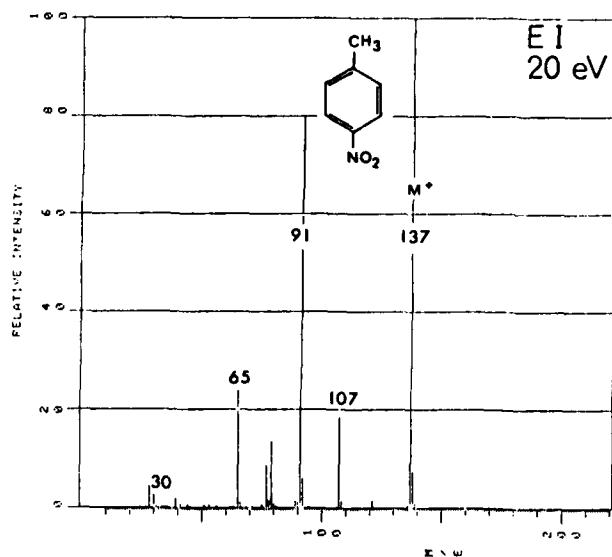
3100, 3078, 3039	C-H arom	1590	phenyl	1354	(C)-NO ₂ sym
2932	C-H aliph	1532	(C)-NO ₂ asym		



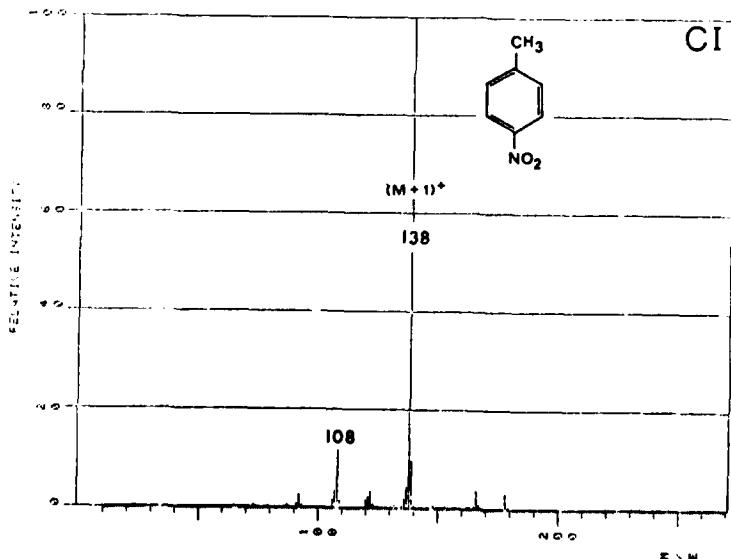
4-MNT



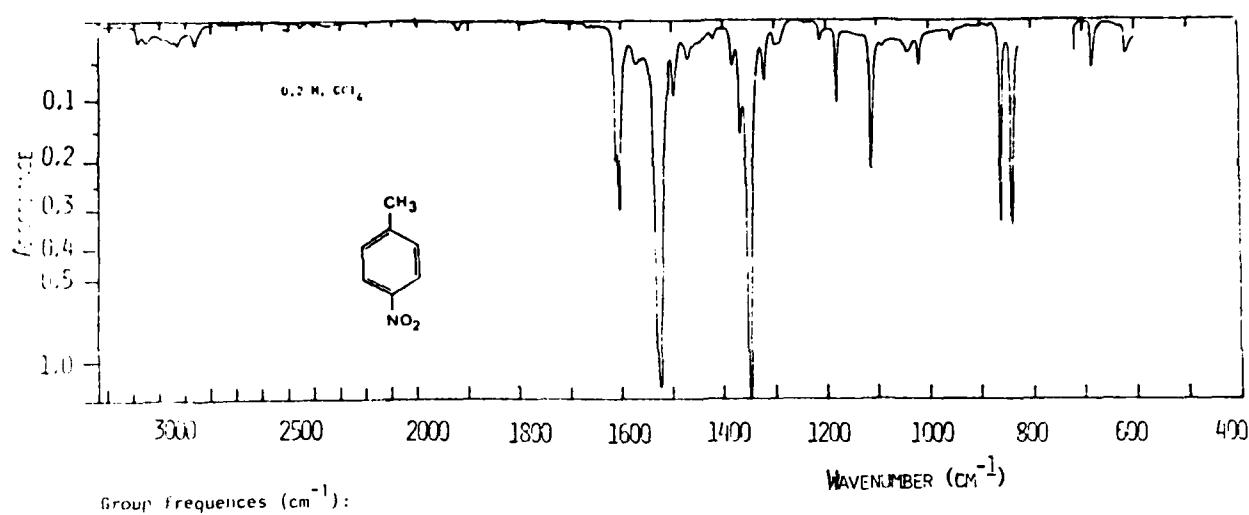
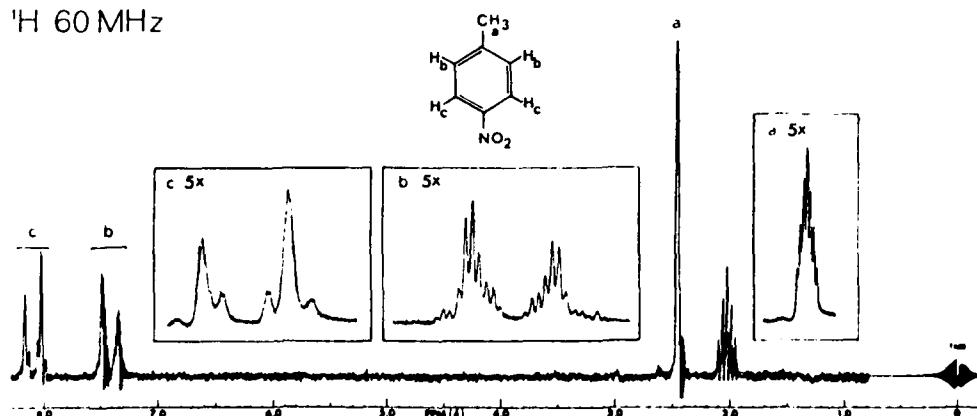
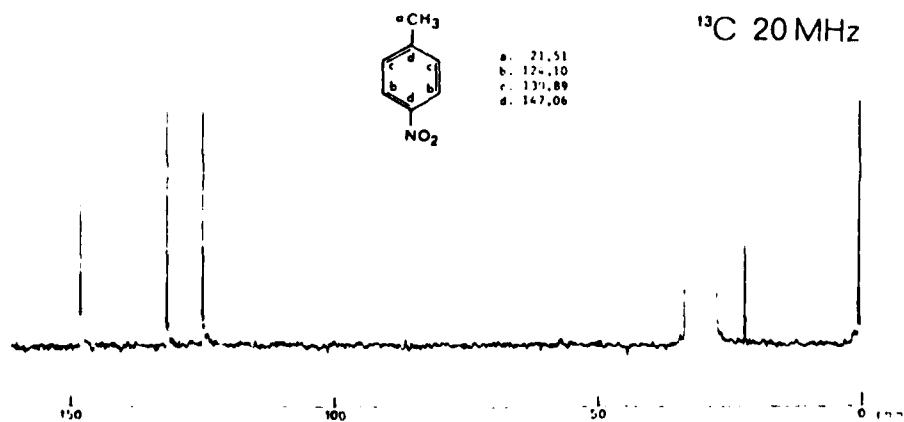
Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C



Inlet: GC
Column: OV 225
Ion source: 150 °C

¹H 60 MHz¹³C 20 MHz

COLOUR REACTIONSSpot tests¹⁶

The reactions were performed using a sample size of 10 µg dissolved in 50 µl acetone (0.02 %). Two drops of each reactant were added. Ethanol can be chosen instead of acetone if the sample is soluble in this solvent.

Methods of detection

1. Sodium hydroxide

1 M NaOH

Colour appears instantly

2. Sodium hydroxide + Griess' reagent

A. 1 M NaOH

B. Griess' reagent:

1 vol 1 % sulphanilic acid in 30 % HAc + 1 vol 0.1 % N-(1-naphthyl)-ethylenediaminodihydrochloride in water

10 min between adding A and B, colour appears in 2 min.

3. Zinc + Griess' reagent

A. Zinc dust

B. Griess' reagent as above

Colour appears in 2 min.

4. Zinc + hydrochloric acid + p-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde (DMAB)

A. Zinc dust

B. 3 M HCl

C. Saturated solution of DMAB in benzene.

Add A + B, boil for 2 min and centrifugate. Transfer the solution to a filter paper and dry. Add C. Colour appears instantly (heating may be necessary).

5. Diphenylamine (DPA) in sulphuric acid

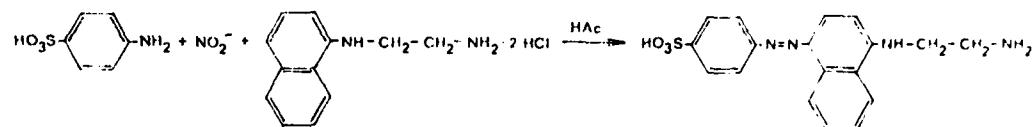
0.1 % DPA in conc. H_2SO_4

Colour appears instantly.

Reactions:

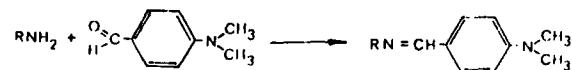
Method 1: Polynitroaromatics are transformed to coloured complexes in alkaline media (Meisenheimer complex).

Method 2: Nitrite, liberated by alkali, and Griess' reagent react giving an azo dyestuff as product (within 2 min).



Method 3: Nitrate, liberated by acid, is reduced to nitrite by Zn + acid. The colour reaction is the same as in Method 2.

Method 4: Nitrosubstituents of aromatics are reduced to primary amines by Zn + acid. These react with DMAB giving coloured Schiff's bases as products.



Method 5: Nitrate or nitrite, liberated by acid, oxidizes DPA to a blue dyestuff.

Table 6. Colours with spot test reagents.

Substance \ Detection method	1	2	3	4	5
1. EGDN	-	Or +	Or ++	-	B1 ++
2. NG	-	Or +++	"-	-	B1 +++
3. PETN	-	Or + ¹	"-	-	B1 +++ ¹
4. NC	-	Or +++	Rö + ¹	-	B1 ++ ¹
5. RDX	-	Or +++	Or ++	-	B1 +++ ¹
6. HMX	-	Or ++	Or +	-	- ¹
7. TETR	RöBr +++	RöOr +++ ¹	- ¹	Or +	- ¹
8. AM-PIKR	Gu ++	GuGr ++	-	Gr +	-
9. HNS	RöBr +++	BrGu +	-	Or +	-
10. 1,3,5-TNB	Br +++	Gu ++ ¹	-	Gu +++	-
11. 2,4,6-TNT	RöBr +++	GuBr ++ ¹	-	GuOr ++	-
12. 2,4,5-TNT	RöVi +++	Or ++	-	RöVi ++	-
13. 2,3,6-TNT	BrGu ++	"-	-	Gu +	-
14. 2,3,5-TNT	Rö ++	"-	-	Or ++	-
15. 2,3,4-TNT	RöBr +++	"-	-	Gu +	-
16. 3,4,5-TNT	Vi +++	"-	-	Gu ++	-
17. 2,6-DNT	Rö + ¹	- ¹	1	-	Gu +++
18. 2,5-DNT	- ¹	-	1	-	Or +++
19. 2,4-DNT	B1 ++ ¹ ²	Rö ++	1	-	OrGu +++
20. 2,3-DNT	- ¹	-	1	-	Gu +
21. 3,5-DNT	Rö + ¹	Rö ++	1	-	GuOr +++
22. 3,4-DNT	- ¹	-	1	-	Gu ++
23-25. MNT-er	- ¹	-	1	-	Gu +++
Nitrite	-	Rö +++	Rö +++	-	B1 +++
Nitrate	-	-	Rö +++	-	B1 +++

¹ Valid for 100 µg substance² Colour fades rapidly

Abbreviations:

B1	blue	Rö	red	-	no colour
Gr	green	Vi	violet	+	faint
Gu	yellow	Br	brown	++	medium
Or	orange			+++	strong

Detection on silica gel layers

The data of reagents and colours given below are cited from a report of Bilson¹⁷. These reagents have similar underlying reaction mechanisms as the spot tests. The modifications of composition of the reagents, conditioned by the presence of silica gel, will in some cases cause a change in colour shade.

Spotted amounts of sample have been 10 µg. Colours were developed by spray techniques.

Methods of detection

1. No reagents
 - a) Daylight
 - b) UV-light, 254 nm
2. Alkaline methanol
10 % KOH in methanol
3. Alkaline methanol + Griess' reagent
 - A. Alkaline methanol, see above
 - B. Griess' reagent, see spot test reagent 2 B.
20 min at 105 °C between A and B.
4. Diphenylamine (DPA)
1.5 % DPA in methanol
UV-light, 254 nm, 15 min.
5. Titaniumtrichloride + p-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde (DMAB)
 - A. 12.5 % $TiCl_3$ in 15 % HCl
 - B. 0.25 % DMAB in 30 % HAc
 - a) Air drying between A and B
 - b) + heating at 105 °C during 15 min.

Table 7. Colours on silica gel layers (cit. Bilson¹⁷).

Detection method \ Substance	1a	1b	2	3	4	5a	5b
2. NG	-	-	-	Rö ++	GBr ++	-	-
3. PETN	-	-	-	-"-	-"-	-	-
4. NC	-	Pu (+)	-	-"-	GuGr +	-	-
5. RDX	-	Pu ++	-	-"-	B1G ++	Gu ++	Gu ++
6. HMX	-	-"-	-	-"-	Gu +	-	-
7. TETR	Gu ++	BrPu ++	RöBr ++	GuBr ++	Br ++	GuOr ++	Br ++
8. AM-PIKR	-"-	-"-	Gu ++	Gu ++	Gu ++	Gu ++	OrBr ++
10. TNB	-	Pu ++	RöBr ++	RöBr +	PuBr ++	GuOr ++	GuBr ++
11. TNT	-	-"-	-"-	RöBr ++	Br +	Gu ++	-"-
19. 2,4-DNT	-	-"-	-	RöBr +	Br +	-"-	Gu ++
23. 2-MNT	-	-"-	-	-	-	PuBr ++	PuBr ++

Abbreviations:

B1	blue	Gu	yellow	-	no colour
Br	brown	Or	orange	(+)	very pale
G	grey	Pu	purple	+	pale
Gr	green	Rö	red	++	distinct

THIN LAYER CHROMATOGRAPHY

Thin layer chromatography is used in quantitative and qualitative analysis².

The substances were chromatographed on 0.25 mm silica gel layer containing fluorescence indicator (Silica Gel F-254, Merck No. 5715). Spotted amount was 2 μ l of a 0.1 % solution (2 μ g) with the exception of the nitric esters where sample amount was 10 - 20 times bigger.

The eluents were chosen according to Bilson¹⁷. The experimental conditions regarding activity of layers and saturation of chamber, however, were different. Found and cited R_f -values in table 8 therefore correspond to those maximum and minimum values one can expect for silica layers. The travel distance of solvents were 10 cm.

One example of a two dimensional chromatogram is given in figure 1.

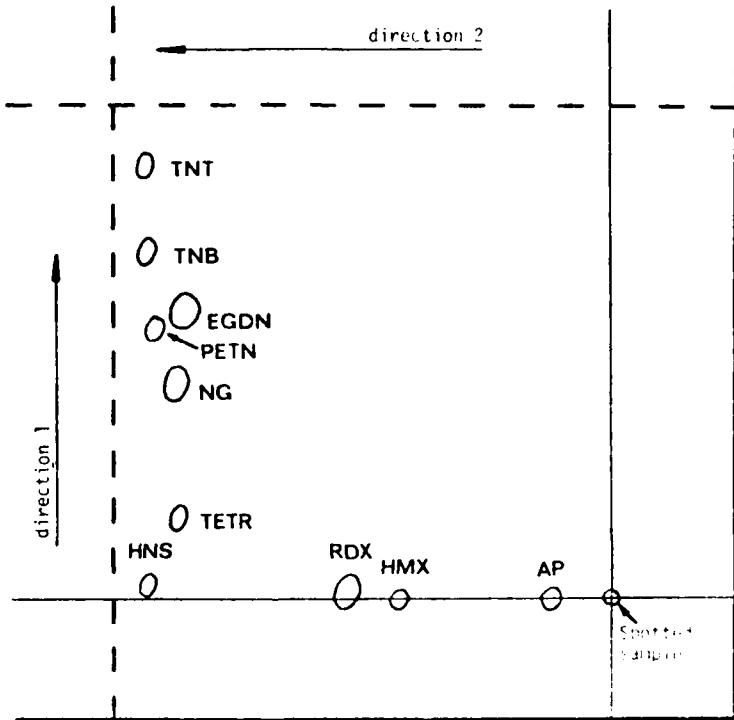


Figure 1. Twodimensional chromatogram of explosives (no 1 - 3, 5 - 11). Layer: Silica Gel F-254. Travel distance: 10 cm.

Direction 1: Light petroleum (60 - 80 °C)/Diisopropylether 25:75

Direction 2: Benzene/Acetone 70:30

Table 3. R_f -values on silica gel layers.
A. Layers not activated. Chamber not lined with filterpaper.

Substances	Eluents	Two dimension					Two dimension 1	Two dimension 2
		1	2	3	4	5		
3 AM-PIKR	0	0	0	0	0,11	0,14	0,38	0,36
6 HMX	0	0	0,01	0,02	0,36	0,25	0,56t	0,66
5 RDX	0	0,01	0,03	0,10	0,48	0,72	0,64	0,71
9 HNS	0	0	0	0,22	0,95	0,80	0,96	0,97
7 TETR	0	0,03	0,18	0,43	0,88	0,82	0,89	0,94
2 NG	0,01	0,12	0,43	0,66	0,87	0,91	0,88	0,93
3 PETN	0	0,13	0,66	0,66	0,93	0,91	0,93	0,94
1 EGDN	0,03	0,23	0,42	0,73	0,87	0,92	0,90	0,92
10 TNB	0	0,26	0,58	0,63	0,94	0,87	0,94	0,96
11 TNT	0	0,45	0,71	0,73	0,96	0,90	0,95	0,96

Eluents in two dimensional chromatogram: Direction 1. Light petroleum (60 - 30 °C)/Diisopropylether 25:75

Direction 2. Benzene/Acetone 70:30

atim. Table B.

B. Layers activated 1 hour at 105 °C, chamber lined with filter paper (cit Billson¹⁷).

Substance	Eluent	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8 AM-PIKR	0	0	0	0	0,13	0,17	0,25	0,29	0,53	0,80	
6 HMX	0	0	0	0	0,31	u	0,46	0,59	u		
5 RDX	0	0	0,02	0,07	0,42	0,52	0,48	0,53	0,57	0,64	
9 HNS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7 TETR	0	0,03	0,13	0,33	0,71	0,70	0,72	0,75	0,77	0,77	
2 NG	0	0,06	0,31	0,47	0,70	0,82	0,70	0,71	0,76	0,78	
3 PETN	0	0,08	0,51	0,49	0,75	0,84	0,76	0,79	0,76	0,77	
1 EGDN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10 TNB	0	0,17	0,42	0,47	0,76	0,81	0,77	0,81	0,78	0,76	
11 TNT	0	0,28	0,52	0,54	0,76	0,83	0,79	0,79	0,78	0,76	

t = tailing u = 1 ona

Eluents (mixtures in v/v)

1. Light petroleum, 60-80 °C

2. Light petroleum, 60-80 °C/Diisopropyl ether 70:30

3. Light petroleum, 60-80 °C/n-Butyl acetate 80:20

4. Benzene

5. Benzene/Acetone 75:25

6. Dichloromethane/Acetic acid 90:10

7. Benzene/Methyl alcohol/Acetic acid 90:16:8

8. Benzene/Acetone/Methyl alcohol 70:20:10

9. Dioxan/benzene/Acetic acid 75:27:12

10. Methyl alcohol

Purity:

Acetone pa

Benzene pa

n-Butyl acetate, 98-100 % purum

Diisopropylether, 66-69 °C, ca '97

Dichloromethane, 98-100

Dioxan pa

Methyl alcohol pa

Light petroleum, 60-80 °C, pa

Acetic acid, 99-100 %, pa

Merck no 14

Merck no 1783

Kebo no 25477

Kebo no 23723

Kebo no 13090

Merck no 9671

Merck no 6009

Merck no 1774

Riedel-de Haen no 32209

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